

Inspection Season

Some call it Spring, but I like to refer to this time of year as Inspection Season. Your buildings and other entity-owned property have endured another chilling winter, and now is a good time to get out and ensure all your entity-owned buildings and property are in their proper condition and safe for public use.

The areas that should be inspected each spring include: sidewalks, playgrounds, parks, roof tops, high traffic areas, and any areas in which weathering has been a problem in the past.

If any hazards are observed during the inspection, it is crucial that remedial action is taken immediately to prevent any accidents from occurring.

A thorough comprehensive inspection should be conducted at least once a year with routine maintenance inspections occurring regularly throughout the year.

For assistance on the inspections or developing an inspection plan, contact **MOPERM** risk management.

Justin Stringer

MOPERM Risk Specialist

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Member refund checks were signed by Executive Director Larry Weber and Jim Odom and are being delivered.

A total of \$1.3 million is being refunded to the 904 members that renewed with MOPERM for 2015.

Is Your Playground Safe?

While playgrounds can play an important role in the community, they can also be costly for public entities if they are not properly constructed and maintained.

A Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) is available to inspect your entity's playground at no cost to **MOPERM** members.

After the inspection, a report will be provided to detail the findings and show deficiencies that should be corrected.

Realizing public entities work within a budget each year, the problem areas will be prioritized based on the severity of the hazard and provide a guide for which areas should be primarily concentrated on.

Contact Justin Stringer to schedule a playground inspection for your entity.

More Free MOPERM U Courses

MOPERM's online training university, **MOPERM U**, is available to assist with training your employees and managers. We are making three new courses available at no cost to our members.

Effective June 1, the following free courses will be added to **MOPERM U**:

- The Risks of Social Media
- Defensive Driving Basics
- Ethical Behavior for Corrections Officers

If you would like to see a new free course added to **MOPERM U**, please contact **MOPERM** risk management.



MOPERM Risk Management

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Claims Connection

Claim Situation #1:

An elderly man passed away, and his house was donated to the city by the deceased owner's family. The house was rundown and offered very few cost effective options for the city. After discussing the options at a city council meeting, it was decided that the city would assign the city's public works department to demolish the house, and then try to sell the remaining vacant lot to help recoup the money from the demolition.

While the demolition was underway, the sewer lateral pipe for the outside drain waters was removed and destroyed. Unknowingly, the removed pipe was also connected to the adjacent house. After the pipe was removed, the adjacent house was no longer connected to the sewer main, and the waste water began backing up into the house's basement.

A lawsuit was filed against the city alleging the demolition of the sewer lines caused the sewage backup in the claimant's house.

Total Cost: \$30,995

Lesson to Learn: Before assigning or taking on a job, it is critical to ensure that the proper equipment and knowledgeable personnel are available to complete the job safely and without bodily injury or property damage to others.

Claim Situation #2:

One day after school, a mom and her school-aged son decided to go to the city park to enjoy the nice weather. After playing on the jungle gym for a while, the young boy wanted to go to the swing. The swing itself stood about 12 feet tall, and it was designed for school-aged children to use.

As most children do, the young boy began to swing as high as he could. As the swing got higher and higher, the chain suddenly snapped loose and the young boy was catapulted 12 feet away where he landed on a concrete pad and sustained numerous upper body injuries.

After investigating the incident, it was discovered an original chain link about two feet from the pivot point broke and caused the incident.

Total Cost: \$33,080

Lesson to Learn: Playgrounds should be frequently inspected for maintenance issues. These inspections should be hands on and not completed from a distance (i.e looking out a truck window) so all the factors can be considered. Playground equipment should also have an adequate use zone. The 12 foot swing referenced in the claim above should not have any stationary objects inside of the swing plane within twice the height of the swing (24 feet), and impact attenuating surfacing should under all of the playground equipment use zones.

No One is Perfect
By providing real life claims examples, it is MOPERM's hope that we all can learn from the experience of other members. Not all claims are preventable, but it is MOPERM's goal to prevent as many as possible.

Driver Training Rebate Reminder

MOPERM Risk Management is now accepting training certificates for law enforcement officers successfully completing a MOPERM-approved drivers training course between January 1 and October 15, 2015. Each officer completing the approved training makes the member eligible for a \$50 rebate.

Members seeking driver training for non-law enforcement officers are encouraged to visit MOPERM U.

Preventing claims and protecting the solvency of the pool is the ultimate goal of Risk Management. The more successful we are in preventing claims, the higher the probability of MOPERM being able to offer member refunds!