

# Time for Beautiful Fall Colors

## Northern California Conference's Risk Management Department

As school is now back in session, we have lots going on. And the main one is ...

### **NCC's Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) rollout!**

Finally, we are rolling out copies of the NCC's IIPP, which is included in the hard copy version of this newsletter. This is an important document which Cal/OSHA requires every facility to have on hand. An introduction and some helpful instructions are included. I also want to mention there are worthwhile incentives coming around the corner to show our appreciation for those entities that take this seriously—and especially for those that go above and beyond (hint, hint).

### **2018 Adventist Risk Management conference highlights**

Recently, I was blessed to attend the biannual ARM conference held in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. I want to pass on some key takeaways regarding church security and Verified Volunteers.

#### **Church Security**

There was a lot of discussion in the meetings about church security and ways to help our churches be safer environments. Some highlights:

1. **The number of individuals who have access to open the church building should be very few and highly controlled.** Churches are, unfortunately, notorious for having loose key control. I encourage each church to do an inventory to discover how many keys are floating around and who has them.
2. **When rooms are vacant, make sure they are closed and locked.** If left unlocked, they may leave room for those with less-than-good intentions to have a place to hide and do their dirty work.
3. **Make sure that all—and especially those who have access to the grounds—are told to be very careful who they let in.**

This may seem like common sense, but do church members know who is allowed on the grounds, especially after hours? For example,

should they let in people claiming to be cleaning staff?

4. **Don't leave tools unsecured around the property.** Not only can these be stolen, but they can be used to break in to buildings or harm others.
5. **Switch up routines.** This is especially important advice for those who collect or keep money. A lot of money can be collected on Sabbath, and criminals know this. Those responsible for the money should avoid taking the same route or establishing another type of pattern that could be exploited.
6. **Get to know your local law enforcement.**

I love this one. What is the best way to do this? Invite them to one of your fellowship meals! Once they have enjoyed one of our award-winning meals, invite them to get to know the grounds, and ask them to point out ways to make the property safer. Also, ask law enforcement and your local fire department to assist in your emergency drills and planning.

#### **Verified Volunteers**

Another highlight

from the ARM conference was the chance to talk with reps from Verified Volunteers. There were some things I was pleasantly surprised to learn from them:

1. I am happy to say that they have fixed a glitch in the system. Before, when someone picked a secondary location, that person's name wouldn't show up in the compliance report of the administrator of the secondary location. This has been fixed. J
2. If a volunteer wants to volunteer in another conference (common example: Soquel Camp Meeting), he/she doesn't have to have his/her VV profile switched over to the other conference—VV can actually share it! We just have to let them know.

Be blessed!

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