



SISC BULLETIN

SELF-INSURED SCHOOLS of CALIFORNIA

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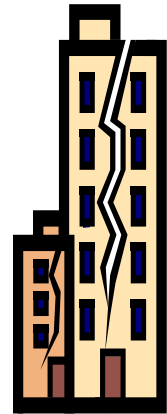
TO: District Superintendents
Directors of Maintenance and Operations

FROM: Timothy L. Beard
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SUBJECT: Earthquake Preparedness

It should come as no surprise to hear that California is the highest earthquake risk area in the contiguous United States. This is due to several large, active faults that run through the state. These faults have been the cause of destructive earthquakes in the past and will be the source of future earthquakes. California sustains an earthquake with a magnitude greater than 6.5 on average every four years.

Since the passage of the Field Act, California public schools are required to meet strict construction standards that now make our schools as safe as possible. In general, we have little cause to worry about a building that meets Field Act standards but what about the contents and components on the inside? Any component of a building that is not part of the structure (i.e., light fixtures, furniture, cabinets, computers, TVs and stands, bookshelves, etc.) is considered “nonstructural components”.



It is these nonstructural components that districts must be concerned with. The hazard presented by unsecured nonstructural components can be significant. The State of California has published a document titled *Nonstructural Earthquake Hazards* that identifies these potential hazards and provides detailed recommendations for hazard mitigation. The publication is online at <http://www.seismic.ca.gov/pub/SB1122.pdf>

Just as buckling an automobile seat belt provides greater safety for the occupants of the auto, securing nonstructural components promotes greater safety for the occupants of a building. If you need assistance in obtaining the publication or if you have any questions, please contact your SISC risk management representative.

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