



# SISC BULLETIN

SELF-INSURED SCHOOLS of CALIFORNIA

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October 23, 2002

TO: District Superintendents  
Directors of Maintenance and Operations

FROM: Catherine Wilson Jones, CSP, ARM  
Director, Safety and Loss Control

SUBJECT: Mold

Mold is fast becoming a major issue for school districts. Recently, a significant number of SISC member districts have experienced concerns from building occupants regarding mold contamination in their buildings. Musty odors or obvious signs of water intruding into the structure have generated the majority of these concerns. Many of these concerns could have been eliminated by the use of preventative maintenance practices.

Irrigation systems seem to be the number one cause of a controllable water source that intrudes structures. Water from broken or out of adjustment irrigation systems can go undetected for long periods of time thereby causing the integrity of the exterior structure to fail. The failure then allows moisture to invade the wall cavity. The interior of a damp wall cavity provides all the elements that mold requires to grow and proliferate. Implementing a routine maintenance schedule to check for broken components or out of adjustment sprinklers can help prevent a costly mold abatement project.

Also, with the rainy season upon us, it is critical to closely monitor buildings for roof and structural leaks. It is also important to promptly respond to occupant reports of water intrusion so repairs can be completed and all affected materials can be dried or replaced within 24 to 48 hours. This will eliminate the potential for mold to begin to grow.

Moisture control is the key to mold control, therefore, all areas within and around school buildings that could contribute to excess moisture accumulation should be routinely monitored. For more information relating to moisture control and mold remediation, log on to the SISC Safety and Loss Control web site at [www.sisc.kern.org/safetyandlosscontrol](http://www.sisc.kern.org/safetyandlosscontrol) or contact your SISC Safety and Loss Control representative.

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