



# E-Brief • December 2020

This E-Brief is a summary of activities for the Fire Agencies Self Insurance System (FASIS). Updates from the Board of Directors meetings, as well as other pertinent information, will be communicated to our members electronically, and posted on our [website](#) for future reference. Please contact us at (800) 541-4591, extension 19025 if you have questions regarding the contents of this bulletin.

## Program Updates

### **\*\*NEW PROPERTY & LIABILITY PROGRAM\*\***

Beginning July 1, 2021, FASIS will offer coverage for your district's property, general liability and auto physical damage exposures.

If you are interested in participation in the program, please complete and return this [form](#) via fax (916) 244-1199 or email to [kim.sackett@sedgwick.com](mailto:kim.sackett@sedgwick.com).

### **\*\*PROPOSED FDAC EBA & FASIS MERGER/CONSOLIDATION\*\***

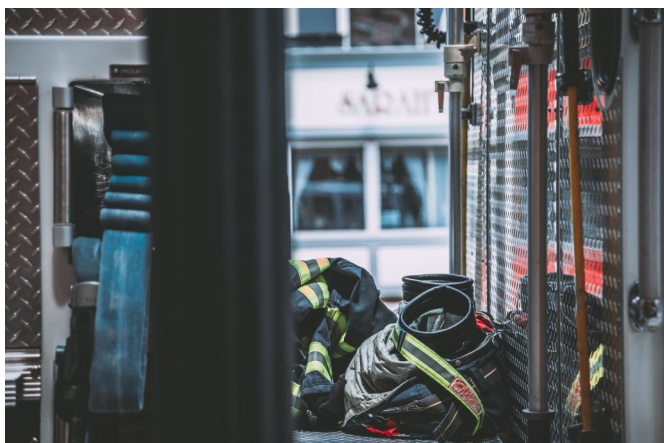
The Boards of the FDAC EBA and FASIS have agreed to enter in to a shared services agreement in order to move toward a merger/consolidation of the programs with a targeted effective date of January 1, 2022. During this period, the Boards will meet jointly to develop and implement an effective governance structure, outline an operational framework and conduct JPA business.

## Important Risk Control News

On November 30, 2020, the Office of Administrative Law approved [Cal/OSHA Emergency COVID-19 Prevention Regulation 3205](#). This regulation covers COVID-19 prevention, outbreak procedures, prevention in employer-provided housing, and prevention in employer-provided transportation to and from work, and applies to all "employees and places of employment." It also contains an exemption for employees when covered by the Cal/OSHA Aerosol Transmissible Diseases (ATD) regulation [5199](#). Based upon our understanding of the regulation, fire districts are not exempt from the emergency regulation's requirements, as there are many activities and operations conducted by district employees are not covered under the ATD regulation, such as non-emergency related tasks (i.e.: cleaning apparatus, training, station maintenance, etc.). Communication clarifying the need for fire district compliance with Cal/OSHA Regulation 3205 was sent to Member Districts on December 9, 2020.

Additionally, Governor Newsom signed [AB 685](#) into law effective January 1, 2021. This law adds COVID-19 employer notification requirements for worksite exposures and outbreaks. It also enhances Cal/OSHA's enforcement of COVID-19 infection prevention requirements. AB 685 model notification templates and guides are available on our [website](#) to help Member Districts comply with the written notification requirements when a workplace COVID-19 exposure exists.

If you have questions or need assistance customizing programs or templates, please contact Bill Vannett, Risk Control Manager, at [william.vannett@sedgwick.com](mailto:william.vannett@sedgwick.com) or (916) 290-4630.



## Important Contacts

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## Workers' Compensation News

### COVID-19 Positive Case Reporting

Effective September 17, 2020, SB 1159 requires any employer who knows or reasonably should know that an employee or covered volunteer has tested positive for COVID-19, shall report the positive test to their claims administrator via electronic mail or facsimile within three business days. Failure to submit information or intentionally submitting false or misleading information is subject to a civil penalty in the amount of up to \$10,000, to be assessed by the Labor Commissioner. You may submit positive case data to our claims administrator, Athens, via the online portal or email, as instructed within the [COVID-19 Resource Manual](#).

Employers are required to report all positive cases for individuals who have physically reported to your worksites, regardless of their intent to file for workers' compensation benefits. If they elect to pursue workers' compensation benefits (medical or time loss), please offer the [DWC-1 claim form](#) within 24 hours of your notice of the employee or volunteer's intent to seek benefits. You should then ensure the claim is reported to Athens within five business days of your knowledge the employee or volunteer is intending to seek benefits. Reporting COVID-19 claims in a timely manner is important as SB 1159 has shortened the investigation window for determining compensability of these claims.

### COVID-19 Support Line

Access to a COVID-19 care line to support your district's employees and volunteers who may have been exposed or are experiencing symptoms is available. The care line may be accessed by calling (877) 494-4300, selecting Option #3 and identifying yourself as a member of FASIS. Note that **utilization of the care line does not mean a claim is filed**. If benefits are sought by the employee or volunteer, please ensure the above reporting instructions are followed.

If you have questions regarding the positive case reporting process, contact Sarah Centeno, WC Program Manager, at [sarah.centeno@sedgwick.com](mailto:sarah.centeno@sedgwick.com) or (916) 244-1142.

## Staffing Update

Alana Theiss, Finance Manager, will leave the team for another professional opportunity at the end of the month of December.

Alana has served FASIS since 2018 and will be greatly missed. Please join us in wishing Alana the very best in her future endeavors.

Our Finance colleagues, Vicky Quintrall and Liz Kokhanets, continue to support FASIS's Member Districts and information regarding Alana's successor will be disseminated in the coming weeks.

## Member District Updates

If your district has or plans to in the near future :

- Consolidate, merge or annex with or in to another district; or
- Change the name of the district

Please let us know by contacting Kim Sackett at [kim.sackett@sedgwick.com](mailto:kim.sackett@sedgwick.com) or (916) 290-4601.



## Firefighter Mental Health & Wellness

### Employee Assistance Program

Participating Member Districts have access to an employee assistance program through Managed Health Network Services.

### Firestrong

All Member Districts have access to an online resource offering anonymous mental, emotional, and physical support. Visit [www.firestrong.org](http://www.firestrong.org) and select "FASIS" from the drop-down menu to access services.

**Username: FASIS**

**Password: FASIS1750**

Please contact us with any questions.

## Upcoming Important Dates

**February 15, 2021**

4th Quarter Payroll  
Reporting Deadline

**March 25, 2021**

FDAC EBA & FASIS  
Joint Board of Directors Meeting

