

# PRIMA PRESS

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR OUR MEMBERS

texasprima.org  
Texas Chapter Public Risk Management Association

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Guten Tag,

We're officially more than halfway to our annual conference, and the excitement is building faster than a polka at Oktoberfest! We can't wait to welcome all our attendees for a memorable gathering filled with learning, networking, and a little Bavarian flair.

I hope you've been able to take advantage of the educational opportunities offered so far this year — and the good news is, there's still more to come!

Most recently, we gathered for our inaugural in-person Spring Summit in beautiful San Marcos, Texas. Following the summit, our Member Services Committee hosted a networking event where attendees could connect, collaborate, and strengthen relationships beyond the classroom. A heartfelt thank you to our presenters for sharing their wealth of risk management expertise, and to our sponsors — Athens Administrators, Radiance Investigations, and Pearson Legal PC — for helping make the event possible. And of course, thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to such a successful event!

As we continue building momentum this year, I also want to take a moment to recognize and thank Cindy Gutierrez for her dedicated service on the Texas PRIMA Board. Cindy recently accepted a new role as Risk Management Advisor with TML-IRP and will be stepping away from the board. We are grateful for her contributions and wish her continued success in this exciting next chapter. At the same time, we are pleased to welcome back former board member Kaltrina Minick with the City of Port Neches, who will be filling the remainder of the vacant board term. We're excited to have Kaltrina rejoin the board and look forward to her continued leadership and involvement with Texas PRIMA.

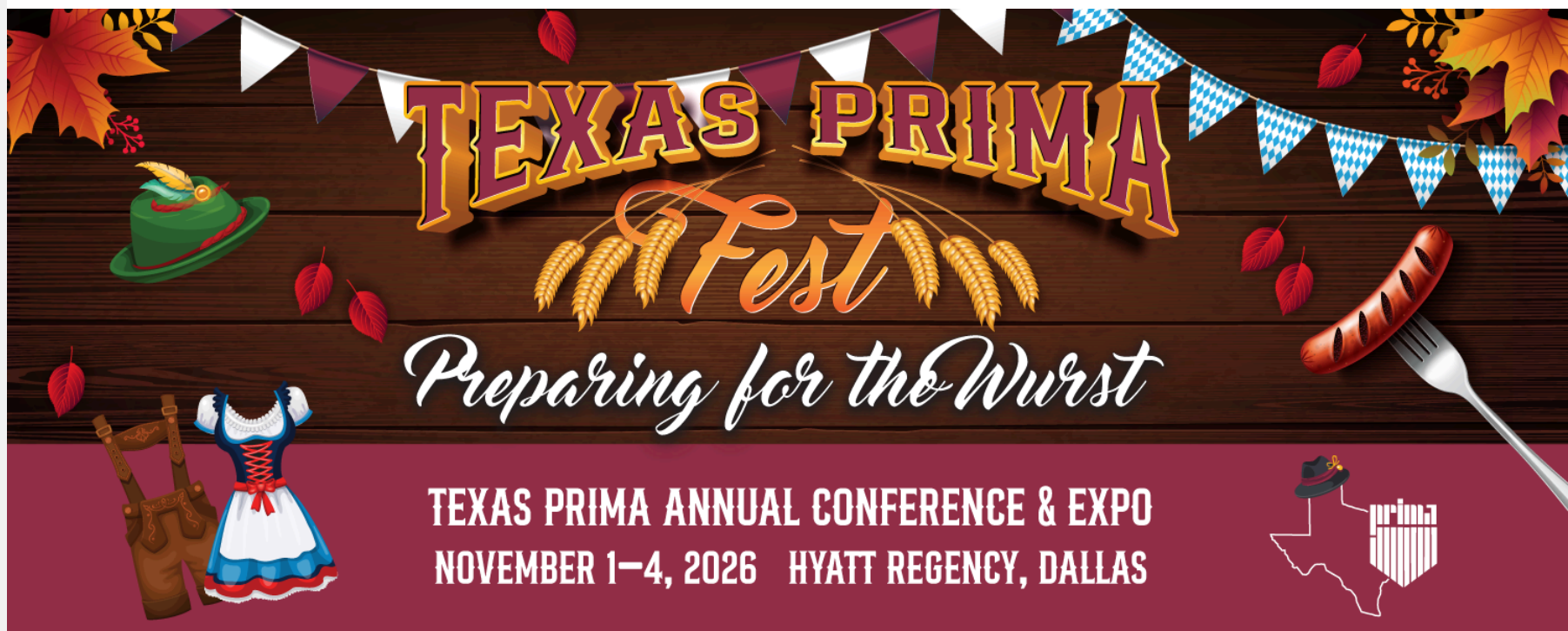
Now, let's cue the oompah music and talk about our annual conference!

Our [call for presentations](#) is now open, and we encourage you to join the festivities by submitting a session for consideration. Presentation submissions are due June 23rd. Conference registration opens August 1st, so keep an eye out for those details that will be coming out soon! We also want to celebrate the outstanding work happening across our membership, so be sure to submit your [award nomination](#) to recognize individuals and innovative programs making an impact in public risk management.

There's a seat for everyone at the Texas PRIMA festival table. Get involved throughout the year by participating in our programs and events, volunteering to moderate a conference session, and connecting with fellow members in the Texas PRIMA [members only community](#). While you're there, add your photo and update your bio so fellow members can get to know the person behind the name badge!

We look forward to seeing each of you November 1st – 4th in Dallas, Texas, so dust off your lederhosen, dirndls, and Bavarian best as we celebrate together Texas PRIMA-style!

Auf Wiedersehen,  
Mandy Riske, ARM  
2026 Texas PRIMA President



### June 1 Marks the Beginning of Hurricane Season

As we enter the 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season beginning June 1, now is the time for public entities to review emergency plans, communication procedures, and operational readiness. National Hurricane Preparedness Week, observed May 3–9, 2026, served as an important reminder that preparation before a storm develops can significantly reduce risk, protect property, and support faster recovery efforts.

Texas entities should take time to review continuity of operations plans, verify emergency contact information, inspect facilities and critical infrastructure, confirm backup power capabilities, and ensure insurance and documentation records are current and accessible. It is also important to communicate preparedness expectations with staff and identify any gaps in emergency response procedures before severe weather threatens your area.

[NOAA](#) provides valuable hurricane preparedness resources, forecasting tools, and planning checklists to help organizations prepare for potential tropical weather impacts.



## June is National Safety Month

Observed annually for the last 30 years in June, National Safety Month is a time to focus on safety in the workplace, at home and in the community.

2026 National Safety Month Weekly Themes

The 30th Anniversary of National Safety Month in June 2026 focuses on these topics:

- Week 1 (June 1-6): Moving Safety Forward – Advancing a culture of safety with forward-thinking strategies.
- Week 2 (June 7-13): Staying Safe on the Roads – Guidance for drivers, pedestrians, and fleets to reduce crashes.
- Week 3 (June 14-20): Promoting Holistic Worker Health – Insights on mental, physical, and emotional wellbeing.
- Week 4 (June 21-30): Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls – Resources to reduce common, high-risk hazards.

How does your entity recognize or celebrate National Safety Month? We want to hear what your entity does to recognize National Safety Month, so be sure to share in the Texas PRIMA [members only community](#) forum!



## Call for Presentations

The Texas Chapter Public Risk Management Association is now accepting proposals for the Annual Conference, taking place November 1-4, 2026, in Dallas, Texas. Presenters willing to share their experience and expertise are invited to submit proposals by **June 23, 2026**. For more information, [click here](#).



## Annual Awards Program

Often in the realm of risk management, much of what we do as risk management professionals goes unnoticed. Here is an opportunity to recognize those whose efforts are noteworthy and greatly contribute to the organizations they serve and to the public sector risk management profession in general. If you or someone you know meets one of the following descriptions, we are seeking your nomination!

**Risk Professional of the Year** – This award honors an individual who embodies the spirit of Bavarian excellence, innovation, and steadfast commitment to the risk and insurance management field - celebrating their achievements with the same pride and festivity found in the heart of Bavaria.

**Rising Star** – Just as Oktoberfest honors tradition and excellence, this recognition toasts those who have made a strong entrance into the profession, demonstrating the spirit and strength of a true leader.

**Risk Management Achievement Award** – This award celebrates a project, program, or product that brings Oktoberfest-level excellence to risk management, fostering a spirit of

Gemütlichkeit (warmth and camaraderie) and sharing these achievements like a hearty Bavarian toast, inspiring other public entities to join in the tradition of safety and success. Individuals selected for the Risk Professional of the Year and Rising Star awards will be treated to a complimentary conference registration and one gemütliche (cozy) night's stay at the conference hotel—Bavarian style!

For full details and to submit your nomination, [click here](#).



## Education & Networking Update

### [Webinar: “Tackling Toxicity” with Mauricio Velasquez, The Diversity Training Group](#)

**Friday, June 26, 11:00am-12:00pm CST**

Join us as we learn about managing toxic behavior in the workplace. Tackling toxicity is not about ignoring toxic behavior or “just being more self-aware”; it’s a skill based a no-nonsense guide designed to help you face toxicity head on.

### [Coffee Talk: Implementing an Award-Winning Program hosted by our 2025 Risk Management Achievement Award Winners](#)

**Wednesday, July 15, 9:00am -9:45am CST**

Bring your cup of java and listen to the City of San Marcos, Arlington ISD and City of Tyler as they discuss their award-winning programs.

### [Webinar: “Payment of Benefits & Claims” with Ricky Green & Maya Evans, The Law Office of Ricky D. Green](#)

**Tuesday, July 28, 10:00am-11:00am CST**

This webinar will discuss in detail best practices and an industry standards review for payment of benefits, as well as discuss challenges and approaches that work best for public sector employers.

### [Webinar: “Catastrophic Work-Related Injuries: Working Thru the WC Process” with Melissa Steger and Becky Curtis, Work Comp College](#)

**Thursday, August 6, 2:00pm-3:00pm CST**

Join us for this impactful webinar that will discuss the process of recovery for catastrophic work-related injuries. You will have a better understanding and perspective of the challenges, successes and failures that the recovery process requires.

### [New! Roundtable Panel Discussion & Social: In-Person Learning & Networking](#)

#### [Topic: General Insurance for Public Entities, Indemnification/Contracts / Medical Care](#)

**Date: Thursday, August 27**

**Time: 3:30pm – 5:00pm (Networking Mixer to follow )**

**Location: Grapevine, TX**

Come and join insurance experts for a roundtable discussion focused on discussing the challenges and trends for the foreseeable future, and best practices to build an effective insurance and medical program that will create cost-containment. A networking mixer will follow. More details will be posted soon!

### [Texas PRIMA Annual Conference & Expo](#)

**Date: November 1-4, 2026**

**Location: Hyatt Regency-Dallas, 300 Reunion Blvd. Dallas, TX 75207**



Don't forget - recordings of our webinars are in the Texas PRIMA [Community](#) under the Resources header.

## Members on the Move

Cindy Gutierrez accepted a Risk Management Advisor role with TML-IRP. Congratulations Cindy!

*Send members on the move announcements to [info@texasprima.org](mailto:info@texasprima.org).*

## Welcome New Members

Sandra Adame, City of Austin  
Daisy De Leon, City of McAllen  
Hunter Hightower, City of Irving  
Brittany Hopwood, Harris County - OMB  
Jakyla Hudson, City of Lewisville  
Dinah Jacobs, City of Columbus  
Shirley Johnson, City of Richardson  
Angelia Lemmonds, UT San Antonio Department of Public Safety  
Katie Miller, City of Midland  
Jasi Prachyl, City of Waco  
Paul Reynolds, CSHO, City of Austin  
Sheri Rich, Keller ISD  
Joshua Sermons, Sr., City of Austin  
Heidy Taylor, City of Fulshear  
Matthew Wright, City of Buda



### March Member Spotlight

**Laura Romo, City of San Antonio**

Laura Romo of the City of San Antonio has dedicated nearly three decades to public risk management. She began her career in 1996 working in workers' compensation and general liability. Throughout her career, she has focused on supporting injured employees, coordinating claims, and partnering with departments to reduce risk and improve workplace safety.

Laura credits Texas PRIMA with expanding her professional network and providing valuable educational resources that help her stay connected to industry best practices. One accomplishment she is especially proud of is contributing to the SAFD Cancer Resource Guidebook, a collaborative initiative designed to provide firefighters with critical information and resources addressing the unique cancer risks associated with their profession. The project not only strengthened the support system available to San Antonio firefighters, but the team's work was also recognized with the Texas PRIMA Risk Management Achievement Award.

Outside of her professional role, Laura enjoys spending quality time with family, sharing meals, planning outings, and staying actively involved in her church community. These moments provide balance, perspective, and renewed energy for the important work she does every day.



**April Member Spotlight**  
**Lillian Hill, City of Plano**

With a career rooted in claims and public sector risk, Lillian Hill brings a well-rounded perspective to risk management. Beginning as a claims assistant and advancing through adjuster roles with Zurich North America, Lillian built a strong foundation in commercial and aviation liability before transitioning into the self-insured sector with third-party administrators.

In 2015, she began supporting the City of Plano onsite as a liability adjuster and workers' compensation supervisor, later moving into account management. In 2024, she stepped into the role of Risk Manager for the City of Plano.

Lillian holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and a graduate certificate in Grant Writing and Proposals from Texas Tech University. Her accomplishments include developing new processes, implementing a driving policy, strengthening post-accident protocols, increasing coaching metrics through fleet telematics, and enhancing communication between Risk Management and the departments it serves.

Texas PRIMA played a key role in helping her find her voice in public entity risk management by providing valuable collaboration and resources that directly supported program development and team growth.

Outside of work, Lillian enjoys audiobooks, crochet, and word puzzles—bringing the same curiosity and focus to her personal interests as she does to her profession.



**May Member Spotlight**  
**Melanie Munoz, Hays County**

Melanie joined the field of public risk management in 2023 as the Risk Manager for Hays County, overseeing workers' compensation, fleet, safety, and insurance-related operations for Hays County employees and departments.

What Melanie enjoys most about the risk management profession is that no two days are ever the same. The field constantly presents new challenges and opportunities to learn, which keeps the work engaging and rewarding. She also values the opportunity to collaborate with departments across the organization and build strong professional relationships while helping create safer workplaces.

Texas PRIMA has also played an important role in Melanie's professional growth. She shared that she appreciates the educational opportunities, networking events, and member support the organization provides, noting that one of Texas PRIMA's greatest benefits is the willingness of members to share knowledge and support one another.

Melanie is proud to contribute to initiatives that support employees, strengthen workplace safety, and improve workers' compensation operations within local

government. Being part of meaningful improvements that positively impact employees and departments has been one of the most rewarding aspects of her career so far.

One quote that strongly resonates with Melanie is, “Speak even if your voice shakes.” She believes this aligns closely with risk management because the profession often requires individuals to ask difficult questions, address concerns, and advocate for safety and accountability, even when conversations may be uncomfortable. Effective risk management requires courage, communication, and a commitment to doing what is right for employees and the organization.



## Letter From the Editor

Thank you for reading the latest edition of the Texas PRIMA Press. I hope the articles, updates, and shared experiences provided valuable insights and practical resources as we continue strengthening risk management across Texas.

This year’s Texas PRIMA conference theme, “Preparing for the Worst,” reminds us that while we cannot predict every challenge, we can prepare thoughtfully, collaborate openly, and learn from one another. As Benjamin Franklin said, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” That mindset reflects the heart of Texas PRIMA – supporting one another through preparation, education, and shared best practices.

Thank you to our members and partners who make this newsletter possible. If you have ideas for future articles, topics to cover, or success stories to share, I would love to hear from you. On behalf of the Texas PRIMA Board, we hope to see you in Dallas!

*Belinda Raindl*  
*Texas PRIMA Press Editor*  
*Texas PRIMA Secretary*  
*Belinda Raindl*

## Sponsor Highlight

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