



SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

February 4, 2026

A meeting of the Safety & Security Committee was held on February 4, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m. by the Environmental Health & Safety, Risk Management Manager, Derrick Johnson.

Members Present: Derrick Johnson, Sarah Adams, Tamara Holthaus, Robert Sedillo, Tom Medel, Veronica Sadowski, Francis Asio, Keri McNamara, David Miller, Michael Obermiller, Wendy Corbin, Chris Moore, Monica Diego Schmidt, Valerie White, Manish Gupta, Andrew Mertig, Julie Lanthier Bandy

Members Absent: Dan Lynds, Kimberlee Ahinger, Michael Finton, Ryan Williams, Ann Jensen, Dashiell Penning

Guests: None

Recorder(s): Allison Tyra and Victoria de la Torre

Welcome:

Approval of Minutes:

1. The minutes from November 4, 2025, were approved. Minutes are posted on the Palomar College website: [Current – Safety and Security Committee \(palomar.edu\)](https://www.palomar.edu/safety-security-committee)

Discussion/Information Items:

1. Workers' Compensation: In January, there were no injuries reported.
2. Campus Police: Have been approved to hire 3 new Community Service Officers.
3. Risk Management (de la Torre)
 - a. District P&L Claims – November 2025 - January 2026 (1). Back in September 2025, Palomar had an electrical panel malfunction, causing damage to an electrical room and some conduits. This month, the insurance company sent Palomar a check for \$87k to facilitate the expense of the repairs.
 - b. SWACC Report – Early December 2025, Palomar's property and liability insurance carrier conducted its bi-annual inspections of Palomar's properties. The report with the findings has been delivered. Shared an example of a liability exposure – window coverings.
 - c. COVID-19 – Palomar had one reported case in January 2026 since November 2025 - current.

February 2026 = 0 (EE)	July 2025 = 1 (EE)
January 2026 = 1 (EE)	June 2025 = 1 (EE)
December 2025 = 0 (EE)	May 2025 = 2 (EE)
November 2025 = 0 (EE)	April 2025 = 0 (EE)
October 2025 = 0 (EE)	March 2025 = 1 (EE)
September = 5 (EE)	February 2025 = 3 (EE)
August 2025 = 5 (EE)	January 2025 = 0 (STU), 3 (EE)

Effective February 3, 2026, the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) officially ends its employer COVID-19, tracking provision. Palomar employees will no longer need to

report a COVID-19 illness to Palomar College. COVID-19 has been grouped with the flu and RSV as a respiratory illness.

- The current [CDC Guidelines](#) for a respiratory illness continues to recommend employees return to work when their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours, and they are fever-free without the use of medication.
- Employees should continue to follow their department's call-out procedures and notify their supervisor if they are unable to work due to an illness, including respiratory illnesses.
- Palomar College remains committed to providing a safe and healthy work environment for its employees by supporting its [Injury and Illness Prevention Program \(IIPP\)](#).

4. Health Services:

- a. Student Health urgent visits
 - i. In the month of January = 3 visits, all referred to the Emergency department
- b. Behavioral Health urgent visits
 - i. In the month of January = 3 visits

5. Associated Student Government: No report

6. Environmental Health & Safety:

- a. For the months of December and January, the EH&S Technician reported 13 Ergonomics Assessments, Consultations, Installs and Deliveries plus 32 Haz/Bio/Path-Waste Collections, Inventories and Ship-Outs.
- b. EH&S/RM hosted a 1-hour Emergency Preparedness Workshop during Flex Week. We had 49 people attend. Topics included a brief review of the District's IIPP, Emergency Operation Plans, Workplace Violence Prevention and Active Assailant Response. It was a successful session, and we will host something similar in the future.

7. Other Items:

- a. Warning signs at the track have been considered and discussed with Administration but have been tabled for now due to the construction happening in the area.

8. **Safety Concerns:**

- a. Information Services is looking for a long-term solution for cellular connectivity across the district.
- b. A safety concern was brought forward by a Faculty member about a lack of campus police presence during the holiday break. The email communication was shared, and Chief Moore read his reply to the Faculty member out loud to the committee.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Reminder: Next meeting will be scheduled on March 4, 2026