



SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 3, 2025

A meeting of the Safety & Security Committee was held on September 7, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by the Environmental Health & Safety, Risk Management Manager, Derrick Johnson.

Members Present: Derrick Johnson, Chris Moore, Michael Obermiller, Sarah Adams, Michael Finton, Dan Lynds, Tamara Holthaus, Robert Sedillo, Mike Dimmick, Tom Medel, Wendy Corbin, Veronica Sadowski, Valerie White, Kimberlee Ahinger, Tracy Fung, Francis Asio, Keri McNamara, Ryan Williams

Members Absent: Ann Jensen, Monica Diego Schmidt

Guests: Dennis Astl

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

Welcome: New members: Michael Obermiller (Director of Facilities) and Keri McNamara (Senate Faculty)

Approval of Minutes:

1. The minutes from May 7, 2025, were approved. Minutes are posted on the Palomar College website: [Current – Safety and Security Committee \(palomar.edu\)](#)

Discussion/Information Items

1. Workers' Compensation: In July, there was one injury reported. In the month of August, there were 2 injuries reported. All reported injuries from July and August had no lost time.
2. Campus Police: No report.
3. Risk Management (de la Torre)
 - a. District P&L Claims – May - August 2025 (0). Risk Management submitted a claim to a 3rd party insurance carrier for damages to a Rancho Bernardo Ed Center solar panel and awning. A moving truck made a tight turn, hitting the awning and damaging a solar panel. The repair cost is approximately \$20k. EH&S/RM is working with Facilities to create a new delivery truck route, which will avoid driving near the solar panel awnings.
 - b. COVID-19 – Palomar has seen a slight increase, as with the rest of the county.

August 2025 = 5 (EE)	January 2025 = 0 (STU), 3 (EE)
July 2025 = 1 (EE)	December 2024 = 0 (STU), 1 (EE)
June 2025 = 1 (EE)	November 2024 = 0 (STU), 2 (EE)
May 2025 = 2 (EE)	October 2024 = 5 (STU), 2 (EE)
April 2025 = 0 (EE)	September 2024 = 12 (STU), 12 (EE)
March 2025 = 1 (EE)	August 2024 = 9 (STU), 6 (EE)
February 2025 = 3 (EE)	July 1, 2024 = 5 (STU), 22 (EE)

- c. New Hire Orientation - Safety Information & Resources
 - i. Update: Allison Tyra, EH&S Analyst, will also participate in the presentation by reviewing Palomar's evacuation and emergency response processes.

- d. Workplace Violence Prevention Plan training – EH&S/RM continues to work with HR to launch the mandated training and hopes to get their support in rolling out the training by the end of the year.
- e. Flex Week Training – EH&S/RM coordinated a Chemical Hygiene & Lab Safety in-person training on August 21, 2025. A Keenan representative covered the following topics:
 - Palomar College Chemical Hygiene Plan
 - Chemical Handling Safety – reviewed Safety Data Sheet Components, chemical incompatibilities, proper storage, and labeling.
 - Emergency Response Procedures – including spill management, evacuation procedures, and emergency response equipment.
 - Hazardous Waste Management – including proper storage, labeling, and disposal.

4. Health Services:

- a. Student Health urgent visits
 - i. In the month of May = 3 visits, one referral to the Emergency department
 - ii. In the month of June = 2 visits
 - iii. In the month of July = 5 visits, one referral to the Emergency department
 - iv. In the month of August = 1 visit, one referral to the Emergency department
- b. Behavioral Health urgent visits
 - i. In the month of May = 10 visits, 4 off-campus referrals
 - ii. In the month of June = 0 visits
 - iii. In the month of July = 0 visits
 - iv. In the month of August = 4 visits

Associated Student Government: No report

5. Environmental Health & Safety:

- a. For the month of August, there were 8 ergonomics assessments, consultations, and installs. There were 14 Haz/Bio/Path-Waste collections, inventories and ship-outs.
- b. The NS Building Chemistry department cleaning project has been ongoing. The ISS team in Chemistry has been working diligently to inventory, label and dispose of old chemicals in the NS-116 storage room.
- c. During the preparation for an experiment in NS – 221, a material being heated up began smoking and set off the fire alarm. The NS Building was completely evacuated, and the fire department arrived within minutes. There were no injuries.
- d. NS – 121 and 125 were closed on August 19, 2025, due to a report of possible asbestos. After an initial investigation, it was discovered that a staff member may have mishandled materials containing asbestos, lead & possibly mercury. A full investigation was started to identify and isolate any potentially hazardous materials. An outside vendor has been hired to conduct this investigation and complete a full clean-up process that aligns with all proper safety procedures.
- e. Fire alarm and sprinkler systems inspections are ongoing. Rancho Bernardo Center is completely certified. The Fallbrook and Escondido Centers should be completed by the end of September. Inspections at the main campus are underway.
- f. We have 4 buildings left to complete all Emergency Evacuation plans for the district.

6. Other Items:

- a. Follow up on previously presented safety concerns:
 - i. Dennis Astl shared details about the new speed bump that was added in parking lot #1 to slow drivers down. That project is complete.
 - ii. Dennis Astl explained the studies that have been completed to ensure pedestrian safety entering the main parking lot entrance. Exploring economical options to redirect traffic and possibly removing light poles where needed.

- iii. Dennis Astl talked about the safety concern brought by a student describing the need for a complete sidewalk and safe street crossing coming from Avenida Azul into parking lot #12. Facilities have installed a sidewalk, a speed bump and a sloped crosswalk that has been painted yellow. Flashing lights will be added to the sloped crosswalk before the end of September. A concern was mentioned about the height of the new speed bump. Dennis is going to investigate this concern and report back,
- iv. Dennis Astl shared that progress on the football stadium, specifically the new field house, is moving forward. The foundation has been poured, and walls are under development. The main football stadium is open for events including football season that began last weekend. Please look for signs directing safe paths for foot traffic as construction is ongoing.
- v. Dennis Astl presented the latest details on improvements to the athletic track around the practice football field. Facilities is getting a price on repairs, replace, and slurry coat of the track surface. Facilities will work to conduct this repair project at a time that does not negatively impact on the instructional schedule or general use by the public.
- vi. Information Services is repairing some of the broken telephone lines for the Blue Emergency Phones on campus.
- vii. The new speakers for alerts via InformaCast system have been installed in D and T Buildings. Beta testing is underway.
- viii. Information Services has taken all necessary steps to assess the technological needs for new cameras in the hallway outside of the Cashier's office. Information Services is waiting to hear from Fiscal Services about installation.

7. Safety Concerns

- a. The restrooms at Athletics stadiums were left unlocked over the weekend and an unhoused person was found inside. Going forward, Athletics will ensure all bathrooms will be locked at the end of all practices, but Facilities will be responsible for locking all restrooms at the end of all games or large events.
- b. An employee fell while using the Track due to uneven paving. Facilities and EH&S completed an investigation to repair the asphalt. The Facilities department is getting the scope of work drafted for the repairs while searching for funding.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Reminder: Next meeting will be scheduled on October 1, 2025