



2026 SPRING EDUCATION SESSION AGENDA

Friday, April 10, 2026

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

08:30 – 09:00 AM

Registration and Coffee

09:00 – 09:15 AM

President's Welcome

Dustin Karstetter, CIS

09:15 – 10:15 AM

I Used to Price Mortality; Now I Price Chaos

Karl Anderson, Risk Management Financial Analyst – State of Oregon Department of Administrative Services

Risk Management Certification Credits: Finance, Property Insurance, Other

For almost 30 years, Karl worked in a world of mortality tables and large datasets. Today he works in public risk management, where the risks include liability claims, property losses, workers' compensation—and the occasional surprise that doesn't appear in any model. This session contrasts risk management in a Fortune 500 life insurance environment with the realities of managing risk for a large public entity like the State of Oregon. While the insurance perspective provides context, the focus will be on public risk management.

Specific topics include Total Cost of Risk (TCOR), funding and allocating risk costs, and assessing the financial health of a risk program. Along the way, we will explore three practical ideas:

- **GEPO** — Good Enough to Press On
- **IOP** — the Illusion of Precision
- **Pareto thinking** — finding the few drivers that matter most.

The goal is to discover ideas for communicating complex topics and data more clearly and efficiently. We will be reminded why public risk management is challenging—and why the work we do deserves pride.

10:15 – 10:30 AM

Break

10:30 – 11:45 AM

Understanding SAM Claims in Oregon Public Entities

Jens Jensen, Director of Claims – Special Districts Association of Oregon, Luke Reese, Attorney – Garrett Hemann Robertson, P.C., and Geoff Sinclair, Public Sector Sr. Vice President – Brown & Brown

Risk Management Certification Credits: Public Exposure, Liability Insurance, Other

Sexual Abuse and Molestation (SAM) claims represent one of the most complex and high-impact areas of liability exposure for public entities, particularly those serving youth and vulnerable populations. These claims can involve significant legal, financial, and reputational risks and require careful coordination between claims professionals, insurance brokers, and legal counsel.



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This session will provide a multi-disciplinary perspective on SAM claims management within Oregon public entities. Three experienced professionals will present short, focused briefings from their respective vantage points:

- **Claims Management Perspective** – Discussion of claim handling practices, emerging trends in allegations and reporting, reserve and settlement considerations, and the operational challenges public entities face when responding to SAM claims.
- **Broker/Risk Financing Perspective** – Overview of the insurance marketplace for SAM coverage, coverage structure and limits, underwriting trends, and how evolving risk exposures are impacting coverage availability and cost for public entities.
- **Legal Counsel Perspective** – Analysis of litigation trends, statutory and regulatory developments, defense strategies, and the potential legal ramifications for public entities when these claims arise.

Following the presentations, the speakers will participate in a moderated panel discussion, providing an opportunity to examine how these perspectives intersect with real-world claims. Panelists will discuss emerging concerns, lessons learned from recent cases, and practical strategies for prevention, response, and risk mitigation.

11:45 – 01:00 PM

Lunch and Networking

01:00 – 02:15 PM

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence in Emergency Operations

Juan Benavidez, Emergency Manager – Salem-Keizer Public Schools

Risk Management Certification Credits: Public Exposure, Property Insurance, Other

This session will highlight how Salem-Keizer Public Schools (SKPS) has integrated artificial intelligence to enhance tabletop exercises. By using AI as a tabletop facilitator, we can introduce dynamic scenarios, unexpected challenges, and fresh perspectives that may not emerge in traditional exercises.

Participants will observe a brief demonstration of an AI-supported tabletop exercise and take part in a short, interactive scenario.

The session will also provide an overview of upcoming Emergency Management training and projects, along with insights into how SKPS has successfully managed small and large incidents by implementing a structured framework that improves decision-making, coordination, and collaboration.

02:15 – 02:30 PM

Break



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02:30 – 03:30 PM

Legal Lightning Round: Protecting Your Organization from Every Angle

Rebecca Watkins, Partner – SBH Legal and Luke Reese, Attorney – Garrett Hemann Robertson, P.C.

Risk Management Certification Credits: Oregon State Law, and Other

In this fast-paced closing session, we strip away the dense legalese to focus on the "triple threat" facing public entities today: Workers' Compensation, Employment Law, and Tort Liability. Our expert speakers will provide a high-velocity update on recent case law, emerging legislative trends, and the practical "red flags" risk managers need to spot before a claim turns into a crisis. At the end of the day, you'll walk away with actionable insights to shield your agency from preventable exposure.