School Liability and Insurance Overview



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Agenda

- What is the NDIRF?
- COVID-19 Liability Issues
 - Negligence
 - Employer Liability
 - NDIRF Liability Coverage
- Violent Event Coverage
- Fire and Tornado Fund Coverage
- North Dakota Public Health Insurance Trust (NDPHIT) Update



What is the NDIRF?

- The North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund (NDIRF) is a not-for-profit self-insurance pool owned by its members with a goal of providing a stable source of risk services to North Dakota's political subdivisions. The NDIRF offers Liability, Automobile, and Public Assets Coverage.
- Located in Bismarck, ND
- Began in 1986
- Today, the NDIRF lists over \$58 million in assets and receives over \$17 million in contributions per year
- The NDIRF has given back nearly \$65 million to its members through the conferment of benefits program
- Over 2,550 of ND's political subdivisions participated in the NDIRF in 2019



What is the NDIRF?

- We are <u>your</u> liability and property coverage provider
- Contact us for assistance with safety and loss control initiatives
 - Defensive Driving Courses
 - On-site Property Valuation Surveys
 - Member-Specific Training
- Online training located at <u>www.ndirf.com</u>



COVID-19 Liability Issues



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Disclaimer

This presentation is provided as a general description of various legal concepts and NDIRF coverage. Refer to the appropriate memorandum of coverage for exact coverage, conditions, exclusions, and other relevant information. Coverage forms can be viewed and downloaded from our website at www.ndirf.com.

This presentation should in no way be construed as legal advice. Contact an attorney to discuss your specific situation.



Governmental Liability in North Dakota

- N.D.C.C. § 32-12.1 allows for a political subdivision to be liable for money damages when injuries
 are proximately caused by the negligence or wrongful act or omission of any employee acting
 within the scope of their employment.
 - "Employee" means any officer, employee, board member, volunteer, or servant of a political subdivision, whether elected or appointed and whether or not compensated.
- Liability under this section is capped at \$250,000 per person and \$1 million per occurrence.
- Liability is eliminated under this section for various claims scenarios, which might be applicable under a COVID-19 related issue. (N.D.C.C. § 32-12.1 (3))



Elements of a Negligence Claim

- The claimant must prove that the school district owed them a duty.
- The claimant must prove that the school district breached that duty.
- The claimant must prove that they suffered an injury caused by the school district's breach.
- The claimant must show that they incurred damages as a result.



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Does a school district owe a duty to protect from COVID-19?

- Duty is a question of law to be decided by a court. Courts will weigh various factors, including:
 - The relationship between the school and claimant
 - The foreseeability of the harm to the claimant
 - The burden on the school district to prevent the harm
 - Whether the school district knew or should have known that a student, teacher, or other faculty member had COVID
 - Generally, there is a duty to act as a reasonable, prudent person would under the same or similar circumstances. That could include looking to what is generally known about COVID-19 and how it spreads, what guidance has been provided by state or federal officials, and what other schools are doing to prevent the spread of the virus.



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Did the school district breach their duty?

- Was there a regulation or statute providing a standard of care?
- Did the school district fail to act in a reasonable and prudent manner, especially when compared to other school districts?
 - Again, courts will look at the foreseeability, probability, and gravity of the harm and weigh that against the burden on school districts to prevent that harm.



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Was the school district's breach the proximate cause of the harm?

- Was the harm the natural and probable result of the school district's breach?
- Was the harm a foreseeable result of the school district's breach?
- Bottom line: with the prevalence of COVID-19 throughout North Dakota, will a claimant be able to show that they became ill solely because of the school district?



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Can the claimant show damages?

- How severe was the illness?
- Did the claimant receive medical treatment?
- Is the claimant subject to comparative fault?
 - Did they fail to take precautions?
 - Did they "assume the risk"?
 - The risk of COVID-19 is well-known, and, in many cases, all are aware that they could be subject to infection by interacting with others.



COVID-19: Employer Liability

- Generally, workers' compensation will provide relief for those injuries arising out of and in the course of employment.
- However, a COVID-19 related illness may not fit the definition of "compensable injury" in N.D.C.C § 65-01. In particular, "ordinary diseases of life to which the general public outside of employment is exposed" are not included.
- If there was a negligence action that could be allowed due to the "compensable injury" definition, the concepts previously discussed could come into play.



COVID-19: NDIRF Coverage

Generally, the NDIRF Liability Memorandum of Coverage (MOC) would respond to a COVID-related claim, subject to the terms and conditions of the MOC.

I. COVERAGE

Subject to the terms and conditions contained in this Liability Memorandum of Coverage, we will pay those sums that a "covered party" becomes legally obligated to pay as damages, except punitive or exemplary damages, because of:

COVERAGE A - "PERSONAL INJURY" AND "PROPERTY DAMAGE" LIABILITY;

COVERAGE B - "MEDICAL PAYMENTS"; or

COVERAGE C - "GOVERNANCE LIABILITY"

caused by an "occurrence."

P. "Personal injury" means:

 Bodily injury, sickness, disease, shock, mental anguish or mental injury sustained by a person, including death resulting from any of these at any time;

N. "Occurrence" means:

 As respects "personal injury" liability and "property damage" liability, an event including continuous and repeated exposure to the same general harmful conditions, which results during the memorandum period or on or after any applicable retroactive date in "personal injury" or "property damage" a "covered party" neither expected or intended.



COVID-19: Recommendations

- A negligence action would target the practices of the school district in relation to what was being recommended by authorities, what is reasonable given the circumstances and what is known about the virus, and what other similarly situated schools were doing.
- Follow the recommendations of federal and state authorities
- Follow your own policies and procedures



Violent Event Coverage



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Violent Event Coverage

VIOLENT EVENT COVERAGE

This endorsement modifies the following:

LIABILITY MEMORANDUM OF COVERAGE

With respect to this endorsement, the provisions of the LIABILITY MEMORANDUM OF COVERAGE apply unless modified by this endorsement. Coverage provided by this endorsement is subject to the following:

Per Person Limit	\$25,000
Per Event Limit	\$250,000
Aggregate Limit	\$250,000

For the purposes of this endorsement only, SECTION I. COVERAGE is amended to include the following:

I. COVERAGE

The following coverage applies to a "violent event" that occurs during the Coverage Period specified in the Declarations.

"Violent Event" Coverage

Subject to the terms and conditions contained in this Memorandum of Coverage, we will pay "response expenses" arising out of a "violent event".



Violent Event Coverage

"Response Expenses" means reasonable and necessary expenses incurred by an "affected individual(s)", arising out of a "violent event", for the following:

- First Aid and Other medical payments;
- 2. Ambulance or other medical transportation;
- 3. Funeral expenses;
- 4. Counseling services; and
- Counseling services for immediate family members of "affected individual(s)".

"Affected Individual(s)" means your student(s), employee(s), volunteer(s), and anyone else occupying your premises with your permission who sustains injury or death as a result of a "violent event". "Affected individual(s)" does not include the perpetrator(s) of the "violent event."

"Violent Event" means an event that is caused by an intentional act or a series of related intentional acts and involves the use of a physical object, instrument, device, tool, or weapon, other than the human body, for the purpose of injury or death to "affected individual(s)" and results in one or more "affected individual(s)" sustaining injury or death on your premises.



North Dakota Fire and Tornado Fund



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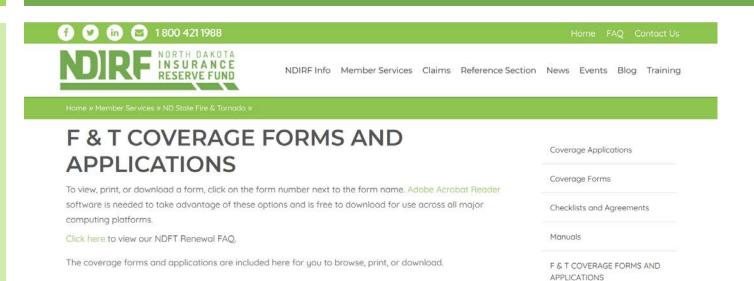
NDFT Transition to NDIRF

- Year One: Understand operation and process.
- Year Two: Target immediate changes (valuations, coverage issues, rating).
- Year Three: Update coverage forms, rating, and valuation/inspection processes.

After Year Three, NDFT will look like an NDIRF product.



NDFT Coverage Forms



Forms

FT ALL 07 01 18

File Size

105 KB

28 KB

Fire and Tornado Coverage Forms

Aggregate Limit of Loss & Priority of Payments

Commercial Property Coverage

NDFT coverage forms and applications are available on NDIRF.com>Member Services>F&T Forms and Applications.



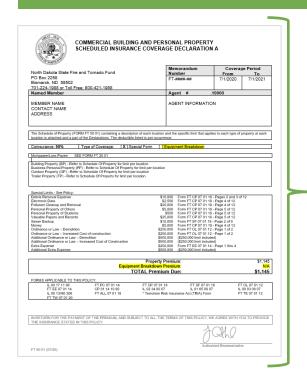
NDFT: What We've Learned

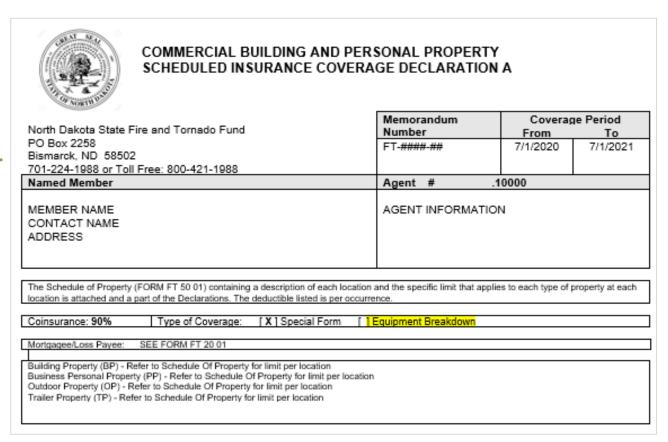
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This Building Property Information Collection Form is a tool we introduced this year to help capture updated property information.



Equipment Breakdown

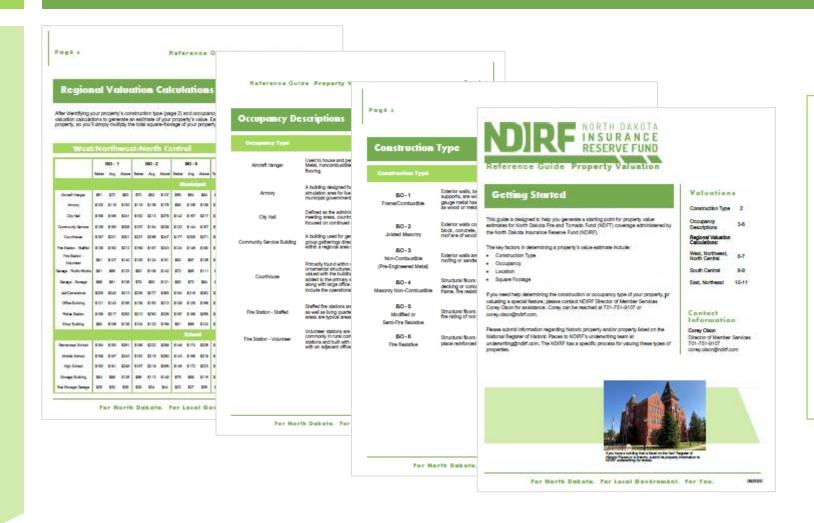




Equipment Breakdown coverage protects your school's mechanical, electrical, and computer equipment should an unexpected breakdown occur.



On-site Property Surveys



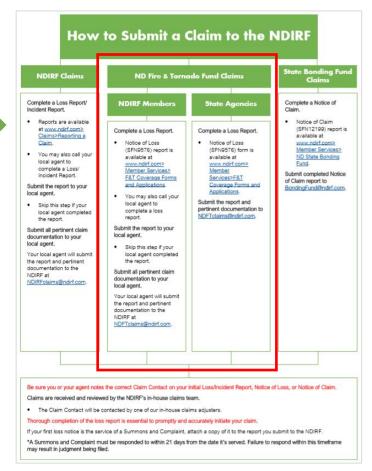
Contact Director of Member Services Corey Olson to schedule an onsite property survey.



Claim Reporting Process



Visit NDIRF.com>Claims>Reporting a Claim for reports and instructions.





Claim Handling Process

- Initial coverage verification
- File coding and set-up
- Adjuster assignment
- Independent Adjusters
- Investigation/Inspection
- Coverage Determination
- Estimates
- Proof of Loss
- Payment



NDPHIT Update



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Recap

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Questions?

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Website: www.ndirf.com



Thank You!



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