

February 2013

SAFETY BULLETIN

SAFETY STATISTIC:

We are seeing an increase in weather-related slip and fall claims over the last several weeks. Slip & Falls cost our districts millions of dollars every year. Please review the attached bulletin for some safety recommendations on how to minimize injuries related to ice and snow. Thank you.



*Creating Safer, Healthier
School Environments*

ACCASBO • BCIP • GCSSD • SEJIF
www.spelljif.com • (856) 446-9128

To learn more, please review the attachment.

For further training or to schedule a Customized Training Program at a time and location that is convenient to you, contact:

John Geitz, Safety Coordinator

E: safetyfirst@comcast.net

T: (856) 218-8772

SAFETY NOTICE

SLIP & FALL SAFETY

As we would expect at this time of year, we are starting to see an uptick in the number of slip and fall claims across our JIFs. While we have not experienced a significant snow event this year, we have had several light snow and ice events that can be even more hazardous. A light snow or frozen rain can create very slippery walking surfaces that require diligence. Please review the following recommendations and ensure you are doing everything possible to reduce the risks of these weather-related falls.

EXTERIOR

- Have a snow removal plan in place. Restrict access to designated entrances to ensure your facilities staff has ample time to properly clear these areas before school opens.
- Pre-treat parking lots and sidewalks when snow or ice accumulation is expected. Pre-treating hinders the ability of ice and snow to bond to the surface allowing additional time to mobilize facilities staff. It also makes clearing accumulated snow and ice easier.
- Ensure adequate ice melt products to assist in melting ice and snow and consider sand for surface applications to provide a higher slip resistance. Note that ice melt products require heat in the form of sunlight or friction to be effective, so early morning applications may not be fully effective when school opens.
- When plowing parking lots, make sure an adequate number of cut through paths are made for people walking to the building to deter people from climbing mounded snow or attempting to jump over the piles.
- Inspect parking areas in advance of a storm to make sure there are no potholes, large cracks or other deficiencies that could get hidden by snow and cause an injury.
- Check to make sure exterior lighting is working properly and that critical walking paths are properly illuminated for night time and early morning hours.
- Make sure that downspouts from gutters are not draining across sidewalks and walkways.
- Consider Ice-Alert or similar signage at strategic locations that changes color as a visual warning to pedestrians.



*Creating Safer, Healthier
School Environments*

ACCASBO • BCIP • GCSSD • SEJIF
www.spelljif.com • (856) 446-9128



INTERIOR

- Place extended non-slip, water-absorbent mats at the designated entrances. These mats should extend at least 12-15 feet into the school to allow adequate distance for the bottom of shoes to be sufficiently dried off.
- Consider stationing a custodian with a mop and bucket at key entrances during the morning rush. While manpower may be short, this should be considered a critical assignment during inclement weather.
- Consider the use of plastic umbrella bags on a stand at the entrances that allow people to place the umbrella in a bag before tracking water onto the hallway floors, creating a serious slip hazard.
- Remember to use wet floor signs in critical areas to remind people to be cautious.
- Make safety announcements and send out email reminders in advance of an expected bad weather event to remind people of any district-specific safety issues and to exercise caution.

PERSONAL CHOICES

- Remind employees to wear appropriate non-slip footwear during bad weather.
- Do not carry too much in your hands or obstruct your vision while walking across icy surfaces.
- Do not allow yourself to be distracted by cell phone use, conversations or actions of others.
- Slide feet across slippery surfaces or take smaller steps to maintain contact with the surface.
- Stay on cleared, designated walking paths even if it means walking a little farther. Be careful when stepping off curbs.
- If you must use steps, make sure you have a free hand to grasp the handrail.
- Wipe your feet thoroughly upon entering the building to clear off water, mud, ice melt and sand.



*Creating Safer, Healthier
School Environments*

ACCASBO • BCIP • GCSSD • SEJIF
www.spelljif.com • (856) 446-9128

