

Winter Wise Warnings 2014

The rain we have been hoping for has finally arrived but it also brings some drawbacks with all the water on the ground. Due to the cold, wet weather and school winter breaks, there is the potential for injuries and damage to schools. Some safety and security tips are:

Slip and falls due to wet or icy surfaces:

- The wet and cold winter weather brings more water and ice on walkways.
- As the days get shorter, and darker earlier; be cautious in dark walkways and parking lots.
- Post signs warning of slippery walkways and stairways due to the cold or rain.
- Put down mats at entry ways to allow staff to wipe off their feet.
- Re-set automatic lighting at the school in response to dark nights when staff and students are still on the campus.
- Repair or report any non-working lights.
- Be aware of your surroundings and focused on your route of travel. Do not carry anything that obstructs your view.
- Use pathways and do not take short cuts.
- Keep paths clean from leaves and debris. When leaves are wet they can be especially slippery.
- Fix or report leaking pipes and sprinklers that cause water runoff onto pathways.
- Be careful in dark walkways and parking lots. Fix or report any non-working lights.

Fire Safety ~ Portable Heaters:

When school is in session, school personnel who work in offices and classrooms sometimes supplement the school's heating system with small portable space heaters.

California Fire Code 605.10.1 – 605.10.4 requires the following for portable electric space heaters:

- Use only UL listed and labeled portable, electric space heaters.
- Portable, electric space heaters shall be plugged directly into an approved receptacle.
- Portable, electric space heaters shall not be plugged into extension cords.
- Portable, electric space heaters shall not be operated within 3 feet (914 mm) of any combustible materials.
- Portable, electric space heaters shall be operated only in locations for which they are listed.
- Heaters can only be used when the room is occupied. Heaters must be unplugged from the receptacle after work hours.

Freeze Damage:

Although we have been experiencing a fairly mild winter, please remember that schools routinely suffer damage to pipes from freezing winter temperatures.

- Turn down the heat during the winter break, but don't turn off the heat.
- Drain water from sprinkler systems and equipment that is not used during the winter.
- Where pipes are exposed to cold air, interior and exterior, make sure they are fitted with insulation.
- Let your faucet drip during cold periods to relieve excessive pressure when the pipes begin to freeze.

Vandalism and crime on campuses:

Prevent property losses by:

- Ensuring all doors are properly locked. Check windows and other points of entry to make sure they are secured.
- Remove all personal valuables from campuses during holiday breaks.
- Keep window coverings closed and laptops and other valuable school equipment locked away and out of sight.
- Remove/store garbage cans when school is closed; garbage cans are commonly used as a source for arson fires.
- Contact RESIG staff as soon as possible if a school site has suffered property damage. If an emergency occurs during non-school hours, please call the R.E.S.C.Q. Hotline at (877) 570-7770.