

Subject line: Winter Tips from CharterSAFE



Seasonal Safety Tips from CharterSAFE Experts

Rain or shine, our members are dedicated to creating a healthy environment where students can focus on their learning. Maintaining a healthy Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) is vital to creating a safe environment and improving student health. This winter, we recommend schools take proactive steps to keep heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems functioning properly and reduce pollutants inside classrooms and buildings. To prepare your school's HVAC system for winter, we suggest members:

- Change air filters on a regular schedule to maintain clean air.
- Clear exterior HVAC systems of ice or snow, and clean interior HVAC elements regularly.
- Keep indoor humidity levels between 30 and 50 percent as temperatures fall.
- Adjust HVAC operation for winter conditions as needed to ensure proper ventilation.
- Create a holiday maintenance schedule to ensure HVAC systems are functioning properly over winter and holiday breaks.
- Activate the frost control option on Energy Recovery Ventilation systems to prevent freezing.

Read more on how you can prepare your HVAC systems for winter and keep your school's air clean and healthy in CharterSAFE's [Seasonal Tips to Maintain School Facilities](#).

Prevent Slips and Falls in Wet Weather

Heavy rainfall and strong wind gust from winter storms can put your school community members in danger of slips or falls. To reduce exposure to accidents and injuries on your campus during wet weather, CharterSAFE experts recommend taking precautions in high-risk areas.

School parking lots and walkways can be hazardous when they become slippery with oil and debris that accumulate when drainage is inadequate. To keep these areas safe, be sure to:

- Remove automotive fluids and other liquids from pavement.
- Ensure storm drains are clear.
- Use high-visibility paint that clearly identifies traffic direction, walkways and curbs.
- Keep parking lots well-lit with timers that turn lights on at dusk and during evening school events.

Building entrances also pose a serious risk to students, staff members and visitors who may slip and fall when transitioning from wet asphalt or concrete to a smooth, non-porous surface. To ensure floors have adequate friction and are not too slick, we recommend taking preventative measures, such as:

- Maintain drainage and provide nonslip mats or other dry surfaces.
- Apply floor treatments such as abrasive floor coatings, chemical etches and floor waxes to increase friction on otherwise slippery walking surfaces.
- Apply abrasive tapes or strips to walking surfaces where liquids are likely to accumulate, such as near water fountains, sinks, showers and entrances.
- Ensure gutters/downspouts do not exit near entrances/doors.

During the rainy season, take proactive steps to reduce risk of slips and falls at your school to keep your community safe. For more information, check out CharterSAFE's [Wet Weather Slips and Falls Guide](#).

CharterSAFE Student Sexual Abuse Prevention Training Extension

Sexual abuse prevention is needed now more than ever. Sexual abuse and molestation has affected all schools, including charters, causing claim costs to rise exponentially. With the recent signing of AB 218 into law, schools face even more risks than before. By extending the statute of limitations on sexual abuse or molestation claims, AB 218 opens the door to the filing of retroactive claims from over 20 years ago. To protect vulnerable students and prevent future claims, we must take immediate, proactive steps to stop sexual abuse in our schools.

To combat instances of abuse, CharterSAFE has introduced a mandatory Student Sexual Abuse Prevention Training for members. This training will help members better protect their schools through increased knowledge and awareness by giving leaders the tools to stop sexual abuse *before* it happens. The training also allows CharterSAFE to continue providing \$30 million in limits with the same robust coverage to members.

The deadline to complete the Student Sexual Abuse Prevention Training has been extended to March 2, 2020. By this date, all employees of member schools must have finished the training. To reward early compliance, member schools with over 75 percent of employee completions before January 1, 2020 will be entered to win one of two \$200 gift cards. Together, we can protect California students and prevent sexual misconduct.

A Year of Growth for the CharterSAFE Team

We are committed to supporting California charter schools by providing leaders the tools they need to keep their communities safe and protected. Over the past year, we've expanded our team to meet the increasing demands of our growing membership, especially as the state's political environment has become even more tumultuous. By hiring the best professionals, CharterSAFE is poised to have an even greater role in supporting our members in 2020 and beyond. We remain committed to ensuring we continue to provide what our members have come to expect from CharterSAFE – an unmatched, best-in-class service.

As always, our [team of experts](#) is just a phone call or email away to help keep your school safe and protected.

Thank you for being a part of our membership in 2019, and we can't wait to grow together in the new year!