



# SafetyNet

**NJSIG'S SAFETY NEWSLETTER**



October 2018

## NJSIG's October Safety Resources:

[Click here](#) for Halloween Safety Tips  
[Click here](#) for a List of NJSIG Training Services  
[Click here](#) for archived SafetyNet articles

## Board Resolutions for the Safety Grant



## Upcoming Sub-fund Meetings:

**October 4:** ERIC North  
**October 12:** ERIC West  
**October 15:** CAIP  
**November 2:** NJEIF  
**November 16:** MOCSSIF

## Upcoming Training Opportunity:

**LEGAL ONE/NJPSA/FEA**  
Hot Issues in Special Education Law  
November 19, 2018 9am - 3pm at  
NJSIG's Mount Laurel Office  
Presenters: David Nash, Esq., LEGAL  
ONE Director; Barbara Gantwerk, FEA Co-  
ordinator of Special Projects

[Click here](#) for more information



**Look. Listen. Prepare**

**Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere.™**

**Fire Prevention Week is October 7-13, 2018**

[Click here](#) for tips from National Fire Protection Association to educate your school district and community on fire prevention.

## Did you know....

NJSIG's member districts with Property Coverage are thoroughly inspected on a 3-year cycle by our partner, CBIZ. CBIZ will be scheduling inspections beginning October 15, 2018 for the upcoming 2018 cycle.



**A Message From Dr. Richard M. Lynch, PH.D., CIH on Mold Prevention**  
 President, Environmental Safety  
 Management Corporation

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## Mold Prevention in Schools

The summer of and fall of 2018 has been unusually wet and damp in New Jersey. Recurrent rain and thunderstorms, interspersed with periods of high heat and humidity, resulted in high airborne humidity inside and outside of buildings. Expert Certified Industrial Hygiene and Microbial Consultants, Environmental Safety Management Corporation (ESMC), measured consistent high humidity and high outdoor mold throughout the summer. With this, many homes, schools, commercial buildings and healthcare facilities developed higher than normal levels of indoor mold spores. In August and September 2018, facilities and teaching staff at many schools throughout the state were surprised to encounter heavy mold growth within classrooms, on upholstered furniture, and on wooden furniture.

Here are 5 key lessons for school districts in reducing mold growth potential during unusually hot and humid seasons:

1. **Indoor Mold Growth Originates from Outdoor Mold Spores** – Because outdoor air contains lots of xerophyllic mold spores from decaying plants, soil, tree bark etc., outdoor mold spore levels may be higher when outdoor humidity is chronically high above 70%. Because of this, expect HVAC systems and unit ventilators which draw outdoor air into classrooms to also introduce higher than normal airborne mold levels. **Therefore, when school is not in session, or not under normal occupancy, reduce or eliminate mechanically introduced outdoor air.**
2. **Mold Spores Introduced from Outdoor Air Settle on Interior Surfaces** – If outdoor mold spores settle on interior surfaces containing cellulose (dust), the surface dusts can serve as a food source; triggering vegetative growth of mold colonies in the presence of high humidity or standing water. Therefore, **increasing preventative custodial cleaning to remove dusts** from furniture, books, desks, chairs, and carpeting reduces the nutrient source, and thus reduces the potential for mold growth in schools.
3. **Mold Proliferation Can Occur in as Little as 48 to 72 Hours** – Under high airborne humidity conditions (>70% relative humidity), mold spores settled on nutrient-rich humid surfaces can begin to proliferate in as little as 48 hours. This phenomenon was observed by many schools this past summer at the end of August when custodians left on Friday only to be confronted by dark discolored ceiling tiles and outraged teachers on Monday. Wherever possible, HVAC systems, dehumidifiers and air conditioners should be set to **maintain airborne humidity below 65%** to prevent chronic humidity in classrooms, libraries and Performing Arts Centers. Keep doors to classrooms open to hallways during highly humid periods to prevent accumulation of high heat and humidity, especially in rooms where mechanical humidity control is not available.
4. **Warm Air Holds More Moisture Than Cooler Air** – Because air at 85°F can hold approximately 2 times the moisture of the same volume of air at 65°F, it is important to **prevent localized condensation** of moisture onto indoor surfaces, which could lead to mold growth from common outdoor mold spores (e.g., *Aspergillus*, *Penicillium*, *Cladosporium*, etc.) and others which only occur in very wet conditions (e.g., *Stachybotrys*). Air conditioners can be used to help reduce temperatures in schools, however, their real value is in condensing moisture out of the air at the point of the air-conditioner's cooling coils and directing condensed air away to drain. If air conditioners are set to temperatures that are too low, an unintended consequence is that cooler surfaces (e.g., windows, tiled floors, metal cabinets, concrete block) can condense moisture out of the air at their surface resulting in localized moisture or puddles. In the presence of high levels of outdoor-derived mold spores, these moist areas can become sites of localized mold growth. Therefore, **where air conditioners are used, they should be set to relatively high temperatures (e.g., 76-79°F) and allowed to cycle to gently reduce airborne humidity, without causing condensation.**
5. **Mold Prevention is a Team Effort** – Given all of the above, combined with varying equipment, ventilation rates, cooling systems and mechanical ventilation present throughout different portions of each building, it is our experience that mold prevention in schools is best accomplished when **custodians, teachers and administrators work cooperatively** to support the simultaneous goals of humidity control, nutrient reduction and preventative cleaning.

Environmental Safety Management Corporation contracts directly with school districts to develop mold prevention plans and staff training. Dr. Lynch can be contacted at 856-764-3557 or [rlynch@esmcorp.com](mailto:rlynch@esmcorp.com) for further information.



# CONTACT NJSIG FOR A FREE SECURITY CONSULTATION

## NJSIG is Now Offering a FREE Security Consultation

In August, Brendan McIntyre joined NJSIG's Safety and Risk Control Department. Brendan is a retired Captain of the New Jersey State Police after 25 years.

During his tenure within the Criminal Investigations Branch of the State Police, Brendan was the only captain to be designated operational commander for the three regional Violent Crime Bureaus covering all twenty-one counties within the State of New Jersey.

He will be a valuable asset to NJSIG and our members most prominently on the topic of safety/security/gangs and drugs. If you would like to schedule a school security consultation, please contact Sue Williams at [swilliams@njsig.org](mailto:swilliams@njsig.org).

### NJSIG Emergency Contacts



**609-369-0535**  
After Hours Claims Emergency Number

**212-915-8630**  
School Violence Response Hotline

**201-623-1223**  
Employment Practices Hotline Attorney (NEPHA)

**1-800-782-7463**  
WeTip Bullying Hotline

**Main Number: 609-386-6060**  
**Toll Free: (888) NJ Pool 1**



### Safety Scramble

**PHEOSMICRHENV  
ACOGEREV**

**September's Safety Scramble Answer:**  
School Bus Safety

### New Jersey Schools Insurance Group

6000 Midlantic Drive Phone: 609-386-6060  
Suite 300 North Fax: 609-386-8877  
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054 [www.njsig.org](http://www.njsig.org)