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2. esredpeparsn

Answers can be found at the bottom of the newsletter.



Frozen Pipes Prevention

Protecting Your School Water Pipes from Freezing

As temperatures drop, schools face the risk of costly water damage due to frozen and fractured cold water pipes. This article from Zurich emphasizes that the effects of this predictable problem can be mitigated or prevented through basic checks and steps.

The threat of burst pipes is particularly common in unoccupied school buildings over the festive holiday period. Damage claims can include ceiling, flooring, and redecoration costs. Losses that include damage to fabrics, carpets, and electrical equipment and wiring can significantly increase claim values and cause disruption to students and staff.

Special attention should be given to unheated roof spaces in many school buildings. Adequate insulation, comparable to that of exterior walls, is advised for pipes in loft spaces. Modern plumbing trends, like plastic pipes with push-fit joints, are noted for potential risks, with a reminder that they may become less resilient over time.

It is important to take remedial action before winter and perform consistent checks. What can schools do?

Make Careful Inspections

- Check and maintain heating systems regularly.
- Check that pipes and water tanks are well lagged, especially in roof spaces.
- Check for leaks, drips and overflows as this could indicate problems.
- If buildings are left unoccupied for more than 30 days, drain all pipes, tanks and heating systems and disconnect water supplies.

Perform Regular Maintenance

- Ensure plans for buildings showing the location of stop cocks are available in an emergency.
- Maintenance regimes should include clearing gutters of debris to reduce blockages and water overflow.
- Protect and insulate external taps and pipes from frost.
- Fit water management devices that detect falls or increases in pressure that could be due to burst pipes and automatically turn off the water supply.
- Install a bund wall around water tanks to catch leaking water, preventing damage in the building.
- Check your contents coverage to ensure you have the appropriate level of coverage for your equipment.

Ensure Proper Temperature Control

- Fit frost thermostats and check existing locations to ensure they work effectively.
- Set heating system thermostats to 51°F to maintain ambient temperature to prevent water pipes freezing.

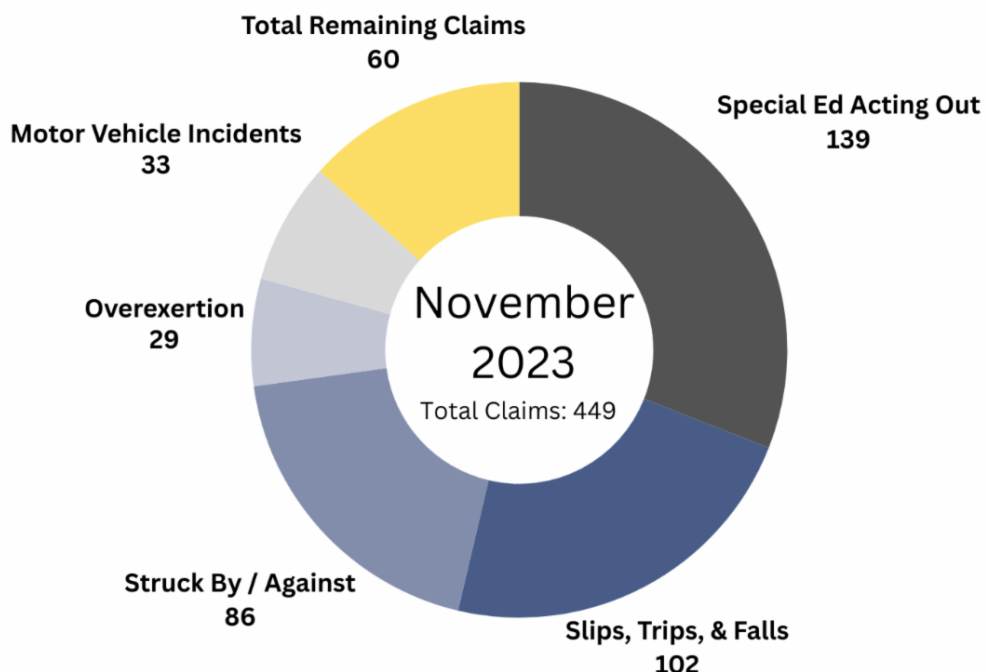
(All information provided by [Zurich](#)).

Find more information from the American Red Cross about preventing, protecting, and thawing frozen pipes [here](#).

In the unfortunate event that your district experiences a pipe burst, please call NJSIG at **609-386-6060** to report your claim.

If calling after standard business hours, please use NJSIG's **off hours emergency claims hotline at 609-369-0535**.

Top 5 Claims Reported



December's Safety Net Focus:
Special Education Acting Out

Educators today navigate a complex landscape as they confront a myriad of challenging behavioral issues within their classrooms, simultaneously addressing the diverse needs of students. Most notably, special education students, who are facing their own set of unique challenges, exhibit behaviors that contribute to a more demanding and potentially stressful teaching environment. For teachers, aides, and paraprofessionals who are serving the special education population, it is important to use strategies that promote safety in the classroom to help mitigate incidents, as well as prevent staff injuries.

The Vector Solutions courses that are focused on special education training and are included with NJSIG membership, include:

- Special Education Aides: *Safety & Injury Prevention* - 30 minutes
- Special Education: *Lifts and Transfers* - 25 minutes
- Special Education: *Safety in the Classroom* - 25 minutes

[Click here](#) for a full library of VectorSolutions trainings.

If interested in registering for these trainings with Vector Solutions, please email support.education@vectorsolutions.com or call 800-434-0154.



Webinar Recording: Managing Challenging Behaviors

Hosted by Vector Solutions, this webinar, recorded in November 2023, provides leaders and educators with a comprehensive toolkit of effective strategies designed to decode and proactively address a spectrum of challenging behaviors in K-12 schools.

[Watch Now](#)

Safety National Webinar

The Hazards and Human Factors of Slips, Trips, and Falls

Thursday, December 7

12PM - 1PM

In this **complimentary webinar**, risk management experts from Safety National, NJSIG's compensation reinsurance partner, will discuss the leading causes of slips, trips, and falls, including the human element, as well as hazard prevention and OSHA standards.

Attendees will learn:

- The primary causes of slips, trips, and falls.
- How to recognize and address common hazards in the workplace.
- Why a shared responsibility is key in incident prevention.
- The impact of nuclear verdicts in slip, trip, and fall liability claims.



Word Scramble Answers:

1. blockages
2. preparedness

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