



See NJSIG's monthly safety puzzle at the bottom of this newsletter!



Preparing for Winter Weather: Lessons Learned from Winter Storm Elliott

Winter Storm Elliott, which hit the United States at the end of December 2022, is the third costliest winter event in the U.S. since 1950, causing approximately \$3.5 billion in losses. The severity of the storm disrupted power and water systems, emphasizing the need for businesses to enhance winter weather resilience. According to [Zurich North America](#), businesses should prepare for winter weather to help mitigate the potential impact of future winter storms.

Key lessons from Winter Storm Elliott include:

1. **Timing and Occupancy:** Businesses should improve Emergency Response Plans, address vulnerabilities in timing and occupancy during holidays, and ensure contracts with mitigation vendors are robust.
2. **Exterior Maintenance:** Regular inspections, considerations for louvers during storms, and building envelope commissioning for new projects are crucial to prevent frigid air infiltration.
3. **Interior Maintenance:** Evaluate sprinkler systems, ensure adequate insulation, and conduct regular preventive maintenance to avoid pipe breaks during winter storms.
4. **New Construction and Renovations:** Implement wet work permit protocols and risk mitigation actions to address vulnerabilities in building envelopes during construction or renovations.
5. **Mitigation Vendor Contracts:** Evaluate and tighten contracts to ensure vendors have adequate resources, even during holiday periods.
6. **Long-Term Planning:** Investing in long-term measures, such as building envelope commissioning, can prevent significant damage and costs.
7. **Data and Losses:** Winter storms caused nearly \$6 billion in economic losses in the U.S. in 2022, emphasizing the importance of proactive measures and comprehensive emergency response planning.

By adopting these insights, businesses can proactively build resilience and mitigate the impact of winter storms on their operations.

To read the full article, [click here](#).

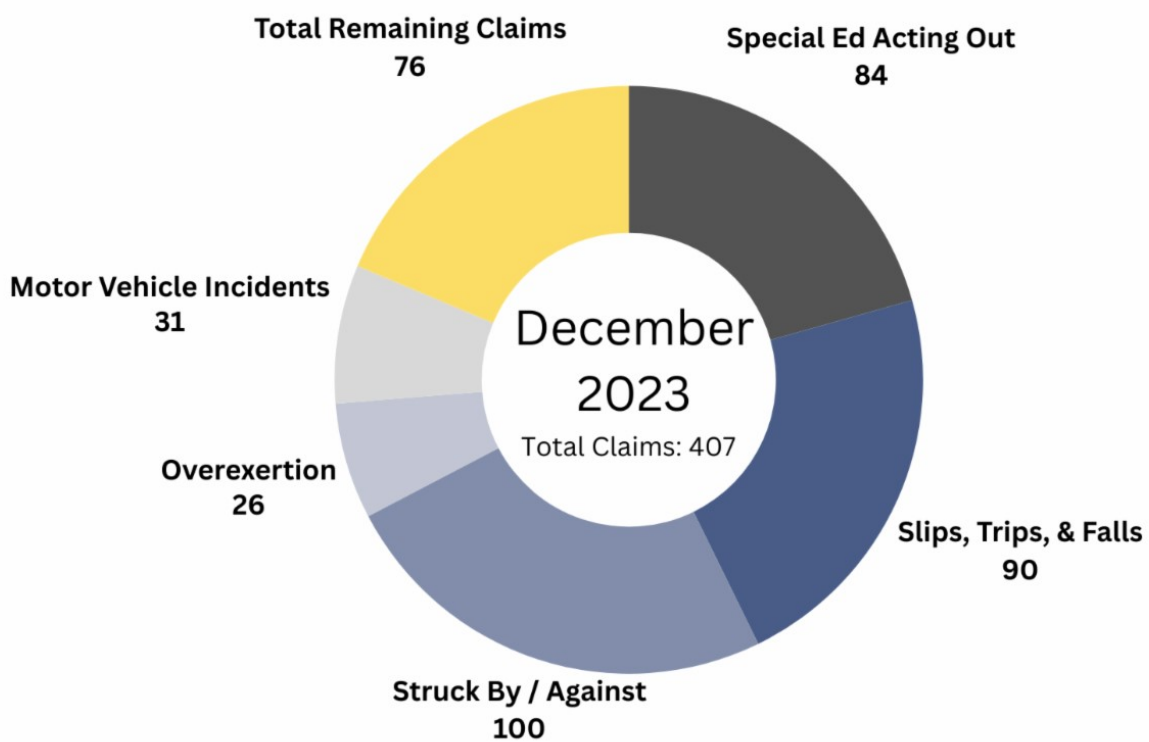
More Resources on Mitigating Winter Weather Risks:

- **Zurich North America** also recommends clearing heavy snow off of your roof to avoid potential costly damages. [Click here for the full article.](#)
- **Munich RE** provides an in depth [infographic](#) with guidance for mitigating risk during these wintertime events.

In the unfortunate event that your district experiences an incident caused by winter weather, 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



January's Safety Net Focus: *Motor Vehicle Incidents*

Although students may wish for a day off when snowflakes begin to fall, a winter storm doesn't always result in a school closing. It is important that your district drivers are trained and prepared for driving on roads that are in less than perfect condition.

New Jersey Schools Insurance Group (NJSIG) has partnered with National Safety Council (NSC) to provide their Online Defensive Driving Course at **no additional cost** (for members who drive on behalf of the district) to NJSIG members. This course is recognized for its leading edge curriculum and delivers the most compelling and proven-effective defensive driving and collision prevention strategies.

This **online course** is approved by the New Jersey Registry of Motor Vehicles and is six hours in length. Each driver must pass a mandatory test at the end of the course with a score of 80% or better to receive a Defensive Driving Certificate. Also, drivers may qualify for a mandatory **insurance rate reduction** of up to 10% for 3 years (driver should contact their insurance agent for details) and up to a two-point reduction from accumulated points the driver currently has on their driving record

What drivers will learn:

- Defensive driving strategies to reduce motor vehicle collisions
- The effects of drugs, alcohol, physical and mental conditions
- How to deal with distracted, aggressive and fatigued driving
- The dangers of cell phone use while driving
- Conditions that impact driving and how to control them
- The importance of occupant safety devices and how to use them correctly

Please contact the Safety and Risk Control Department or email riskcontrol@njsig.org to get assistance with the online defensive driving course.

[Click here](#) for winter weather driving tips provided by The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

TOP 5 COURSES
K-12 Staff Trainings
Completed by NJSIG Members in 2023

Vector Solutions™

- 01 Bloodborne Pathogen Exposure
- 02 Bullying
- 03 Sexual Harassment
- 04 Health Emergencies: Asthma Awareness
- 05 Child Abuse Mandatory Reporting

[Click here](#) for a full library of VectorSolutions K-12 staff trainings.

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

CHUBB®

Chubb 2024 Boiler Controls & Water Treatment Trainings

This course is approved and will offer 3 CEFM continuing education units.

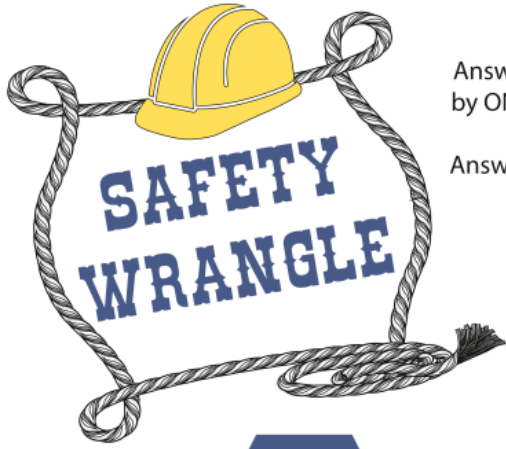
Date	Format	Spanish
April 16	In Person*	
May 21	Virtual	
June 10	Virtual	X
July 23	Virtual	
Sept 17	Virtual	X
Oct 10	In Person*	
Nov 12	Virtual	
Dec 9	Virtual	

Meet the Chubb Risk Engineers who inspect your facilities and learn about key controls and safety devices, and industry standard preventative maintenance practices.

*= In person meetings will be held at Chubb Risk Engineering Center 35 Columbia Road, Branchburg, NJ 08876.

Stay tuned for more information on the new Electrical Safety training coming later in 2024!

If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Gunter, Senior Safety and Risk Control Coordinator, at jgunter@njsig.org or 609-386-6060 x3021.

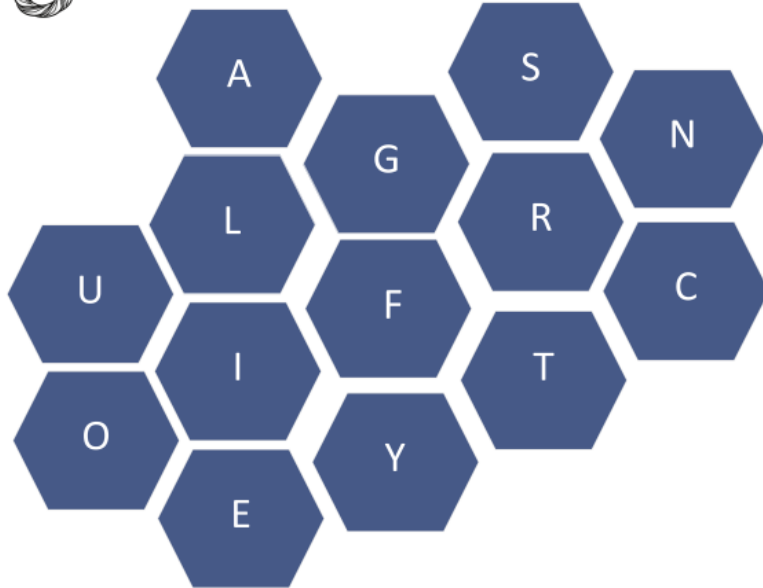


Answer the safety questions below by ONLY using the letters provided.

Answers must use 5 letters or more.

Letters may be repeated.

Answer key can be found at the bottom of this newsletter.



QUESTIONS:

1. America's leading nonprofit safety advocate (3-words)
2. Process that helps employees learn necessary skills to perform the job effectively.
3. Pick up and move to a different position
4. Aiming to provide equal access and resources
5. A stock or supply of materials, staff or assets

[Click here to view past SafetyNet newsletters](#)

[Click here for Safety Wrangle answers!](#)

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