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___ Classroom Teachers

Safe Schools Agenda

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A monthly service provided to help you with your efforts to make your school safe for students, staff and the public

One Way to Control Slips and Falls

If you are frustrated about the number of slip and fall related workers' compensation (WC) claims, consider supplying shoes with slip-resistant soles. It will be expensive, but with WC claims making up as much as 40% of the cost of all insurance claims, not counting the hidden costs of WC, you may be ahead of the game. The average cost of a slip and fall injury is about \$22,800 per incident, according to the Liberty Mutual Workplace Safety Index.

Your food service personnel are likely candidates for a pilot program of slip resistant shoes. Analyze the cost of these kinds of WC claims first and compare at the end of the pilot program period. Be sure to provide a quality shoe. Your food service workers will be impressed, and you will have a receptive audience for making them aware of hazards and the need to be aware of the hazards.

Speaking of shoes, some of your employees are probably wearing flip flops because they think they are cooler in the summer. But they don't have a good grip on the floor-what you wear on your feet can make a difference.

Planning for Fire Prevention Week



Fire Prevention Week this year is scheduled for October 4-10. The motto is "**Stay fire smart! Don't get burned.**"

This is a suggested planning calendar:

August

- Develop a Fire Prevention Week (FPW) planning team that includes fire department personnel and other safety advocates, school personnel, and the media.

- Determine what activities will be conducted in your community and how planning responsibilities will be divided among team members.
- Contact local retailers to support Fire Prevention Week. Discuss ways to work together such as hosting a store event, purchasing Fire Prevention Week materials.
- Finalize plans with donors and sponsors who are supporting your Fire Prevention Week activities. Contact the National Fire Protection Association to order your materials (www.nfpa.com).

September

- Hang the official FPW banner outside your fire station, town hall, or school.
- Print out the official FPW lesson plans from their Fire Prevention Week website (put website info). Copy and distribute to classroom teachers.
- Prepare the appropriate press materials and send them to the local media; make a follow-up call to media contacts about three to five days after you send each news release, op-ed or print ads.
- If you do not subscribe to Scholastic classroom news, access the official Scholastic FPW classroom materials at www.scholastic.com.

October

- Prepare a media advisory to remind the media about the upcoming drill.
- Teachers deliver FPW lesson plans.
- Arrange for visits of students to your local fire department.

Evaluate

- Take the time to assess the success of your FPW initiatives.
- Hold a meeting of your planning team to discuss your findings and brainstorm for next year's event.

Summer Safety Tips for Parents From the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

1. Be sure to go over the rules with your children about whose homes they visit and discuss the boundaries of where they may and may not go in the neighborhood.
2. Make sure children know their full names, address, telephone number, and how to use the telephone. Be sure they know what to do in case of emergency and how to reach you using cellular or pager numbers. Children should have a neighbor or trusted adult they may call if they are scared.
3. Caution children to keep the door locked and not to open the door or talk to anyone who comes to the door when they are home alone. If you have arranged for a family friend or relative to stop by, make sure your children feel comfortable being alone with that person. Make certain they understand not to tell anyone who calls they are home alone.
4. Don't drop your children off at malls, movies, video arcades, or parks. They are not safe places for children to be alone. Make certain a responsible person supervises younger children at all times when they are outside or are away from home.
5. Teach your children in whose vehicle they may ride. Children should be cautioned to never approach any vehicle, occupied or not, unless accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other trusted adult.
6. Make sure your children know to stay away from pools, canals, or other bodies of water without adult supervision.
7. Since daylight lasts longer during the summer months, be sure your children know their curfew and to check in with you if they are going to be late. If you allow your children to play outside after dark, make sure they wear reflective clothing and stay close to home.
8. Choose babysitters with care. Obtain references from family, friends, and neighbors. Many states now have registries for public access to check criminal history or sex-offender status. Observe the babysitter's interactions with your children, and ask your children how they feel about the babysitter.
9. Check out camp and other summer programs before enrolling your children. See if a background screening check is completed on the individuals working with the children. Make sure there will be adult supervision of your children at all times, and make sure you are made aware of all activities and field trips offered by the camp or program.
10. Investigate daycare settings thoroughly before placing your children. Be certain the center or family-daycare home is licensed; completes full background screening for all employees, volunteers, and others affiliated with the facility; and allows parents and guardians to freely come and go as they wish. Observe the personnel and activities several times before making your decision and visit unannounced after placement.
11. Be sure all custody documents are in order and certified copies are available in case your children are not returned from a scheduled summer visit.
12. Always listen to your children and keep the lines of communication open. Your children are your best source for determining if everything is okay. Teach your children to get out of dangerous or uncomfortable situations and practice basic safety skills with them. Make sure they know they are able to tell you about anything that makes them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused.



JUST A REMINDER

If you would like to receive the Safety Agenda electronically or if your email address changed, please forward your changes/requests to Lynn Green at 610.458.1050 or email her at lgreen@glatfelters.com.