

# The Risk Review



December 2025

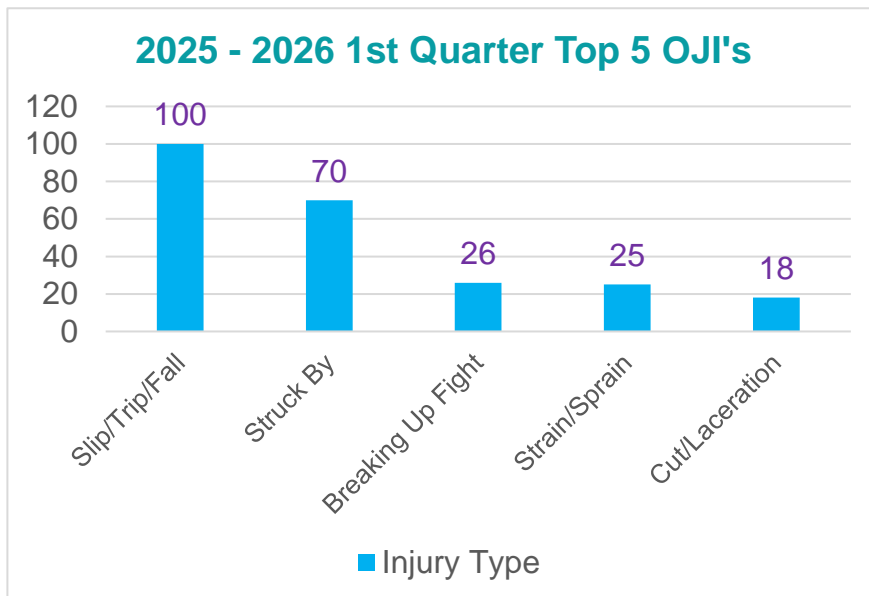
## Risk Management News

### On-the-Job Injury Updates

The chart below lists the top 5 OJI incident categories for the school district from July – Sept for the fiscal year, 2025 – 2026 highlighting Slip/Trip/Falls as the #1 loss trend.

Contributing factors to these Slip/Trip/Fall injuries include spills & wet surfaces, poor housekeeping, and improper use of equipment & furniture.

**REMEMBER for OJI MSCS clinic appointments, Please call (901)416-6079 or (901)416-6867.**



**Risk Review Reminder:** Please see Risk Management's website, [www.scsk12.org/riskmanagement](http://www.scsk12.org/riskmanagement), for additional information on insurance coverages, OJI & student/visitor incident reporting, safety & loss control, etc. Additionally, our Forms & Resources tab allows access to service requests, written safety programs, insurance forms, the OJI policy, and newsletters.

## Property & Liability News

### SPACE HEATERS & MINI FRIDGES

The following are regulatory requirements for portable electric heaters.

NFPA 1-11.5.3 requires any portable electric heaters (**space heaters**) to be:

- UL-approved
- must have an automatic shutoff if tipped/knocked over
- must be kept 3-ft away from flammables & combustibles
- must be unplugged at the end of each day

Mini fridges are not allowed unless medically required and you are given written permission from your principal or direct supervisor.

Due to a recent fire in one of our schools, Frigidaire mini fridges (**pictured below**) with the model #'s EFMIS129, EFMIS137, EFMIS149 and EFMIS175 are **not** allowed. There is also a consumer product recall on these models.



# Focus on Safety

## Winter Weather Preparedness

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that more than 40,000 workplace injuries occur annually due to snow and ice. In the 2021 winter storm, the freezing temperatures claimed 262 workers' lives.

Prolonged exposure to freezing temperatures can prevent the body from maintaining its normal body temperature. This is called **cold stress**, and it can result in serious health threats such as hypothermia and frostbite. While providing winter clothing, protective equipment, and additional rest breaks are important when appropriate, you shouldn't overlook other methods to protect yourselves from the cold.

### Slips, Trips, Falls:

- Regularly inspect common walking and working surfaces to identify slippery areas.
- Scrape all ice and snow off steps and walkways to provide a safe area to walk.
- Treat exterior walking surfaces with de-icing agents and salt.
- Wear slip-resistant footwear.

### Hypothermia & Fatigue:

- Reduce an employee's time in the cold.
- When appropriate, wear insulated clothing and layers protecting your head, hands, and feet.
- Provide breaks with warming areas.



## What you can do

The National Weather Service offers these tips for extreme cold:

- 1 Stay covered. A large amount of body heat is lost if your head is not covered.
- 2 Dress in layers. Two or more layers of loose-fitting clothing act as insulation to retain body heat.
- 3 Stay dry, because wet clothing causes rapid heat loss. Wear waterproof insulated boots and gloves.

### District Vehicle Safety during Winter:

- Complete a pre-trip inspection of the vehicle specifically noting the condition of the **tires**, **lights**, and **windshield wipers**.
- Document and schedule maintenance with MSCS auto shop. Be sure to list the vehicle # and/or have the gas card on hand.
- Reduce your speed and drive cautiously, maintaining at least an 8 second stopping distance, per the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).
- Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle. This can include:
  - Flashlight
  - Jumper cables
  - First Aid kit
  - Blanket
  - Cell phone charger
  - Water

### Additional Winter Safety Reminders:

- When using a generator, never operate one indoors.
- Make certain all Carbon Monoxide & Smoke Detectors are working properly.
- Keep all pipes covered and insulated. Let faucets drip when temperatures are below freezing.

### Risk Management Additional Info:

For more information on Safety, Loss Control & Prevention please contact the Risk Management department at (901)416-5515 or [riskmanagement@sck12.org](mailto:riskmanagement@sck12.org)

"Safety Is Everyone's Responsibility"



Office of Risk Management