

# The Risk Report

A publication of the Arkansas School Boards Association (ASBA)

For more information about risk management or workers' compensation, please contact:  
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## Now that you asked...

### Storms wreak havoc, cause numerous claims

Weather-related damage resulted in numerous insurance claims in the first two months of 2008. In January, 39 school districts insured by ASBA suffered damage by straight-line winds.

On February 5, four districts with ASBA property insurance experienced damage.

"It's important for districts to notify their insurance representative as soon as possible after a storm," said Shannon Moore, ASBA Risk Management and Worker's Comp Director.

Moore noted that districts covered by ASBA should contact the organization about the damage, complete a loss notice, and make temporary or emergency repairs to the damaged areas.

Moore added that our insurance adjustor assists districts that need temporary accommodations to continue classes, including approval for portable classrooms or class relocations.

### Property insurance renewals due July 1

Districts with property coverage through ASBA will renew their coverage by July 1. These tips will make renewal a smooth process:

- Review the "Statement of Values" we send you to be sure all property owned by the district is included;
- Notify ASBA about any property on the "Statement of Values" that the district no longer owns;
- Make sure building names are accurate; if your "Fifth Grade Building" has been changed to the "Science Building," change the name on the "Statement of Values;" and
- Don't overlook fences, covered walkways, storage buildings and marquee signs; when these are damaged, it's not a nice surprise to find you forgot to include them on your coverage.

How can I lower our district's insurance premium while maintaining the coverage our schools need?

*I would recommend a couple of things. First, be sure you don't have any buildings or vehicles listed on your insurance coverage that the district no longer owns. Sounds simple, right? But you might be surprised to learn that your building or vehicle inventory is not as accurate as you would like. Second, consider a higher deductible that may lower your premium. If you do, keep in mind that you are assuming a greater risk. In the event of a loss, you'll pay a higher deductible, so you need to decide whether this is worth the benefit of a lower premium.*

Our district was at fault in an accident in which damage occurred only to another party's vehicle. Do we have to pay a deductible?

*No, not if your vehicle coverage is written through ASBA. Under our vehicle insurance, your district would not pay a deductible if only another party's vehicle was damaged, not a district vehicle.*

ASBA now contracts with Arkansas CAMA to evaluate facilities for insurance purposes, including building measurement and photography, record physical characteristics of buildings and to verify type of structure construction.

*If you have a question about property or vehicle insurance or workers' compensation, please e-mail Shannon Moore at [shannon@arsba.org](mailto:shannon@arsba.org).*

## Safety first - workers' comp tips

Here are some suggestions to prevent employee slips, trips and falls (and to reduce workers' compensation claims):

- Provide teachers access to a step-stool so they resist the temptation to stand in a rolling chair to post bulletin board and other classroom materials
- Remind teachers and playground supervisors that, while they are tempted by spring weather to join students on playground equipment, this results in numerous reported injuries
- Ensure cafeteria staff members are trained about kitchen safety; one expensive Arkansas claim resulted from a cafeteria employee who carried hot grease in a large plastic bucket; the grease melted through the bucket; and the employee slipped in the grease, thereby suffering injury
- Remember that custodians may be at risk because of the work they do; to reduce accidents:
  - be sure custodians receive training on proper use of indoor and lawn equipment and chemicals;
  - make sure they wear appropriate clothing and shoes when they buff and wax floors (Have you ever seen a pair of sneakers eaten clean through by floor chemicals? Not a pretty sight!)

## Builder's risk coverage available

Did you know that ASBA now writes builders' risk coverage? This insurance covers buildings and other campus structures during construction and includes building materials and supplies.

A school contractor may be named as an "additional insured" to cover their material and supply investment during construction. However, the coverage does not extend to contractor's tools that could be stolen from a site.

When you bid out a construction contract, consider purchasing your builders risk insurance separately rather than including it in the contractor's bid price – you may save money.

*Visit us on the web at [www.arsba.org](http://www.arsba.org)*



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