

Regularly Check Your Gym's Lighting

An incident at an elementary school gym highlights the importance of regularly scheduled facility inspections and maintenance. A halide light bulb in the gym malfunctioned, and more than 100 people were exposed to short-wave radiation for over an hour. Eighteen people went to the hospital with severe sunburns and swollen eyes. Halide bulbs, which are frequently used in gymnasiums due to their energy efficiency, have a membrane over the bulb. If the membrane is broken, the light can remain intact. Alert maintenance and athletic staff to the hazards posed by malfunctioning lights, and replace any that are damaged or suspect.

If you have a safety or risk management question or a suggestion for a topic, please contact Markel's Risk Management Department at safety1st@markelcorp.com.