

Top Five Claims Reported at Schools

Insurance companies tend to look at losses in two categories: frequency and severity. For instance, a school fire is not a frequent event, but it could be very serious. Both frequency and severity of claims can influence insurance premiums, but of the two, frequency tends to have the stronger influence.

The following are the five most frequent causes of loss at schools reported to Markel:

- Environmental (windstorm, hail, lightning, and resulting water damage)—27%
- Vehicle—20%
- Slip and Falls—15%
- Vandalism/Theft—15%
- Sexual Abuse—3%

Here are some tips to prevent these types of losses:

- Take steps to reduce water damage (often the most expensive part of a claim) or electrical damage due to lightning. For example, quickly cover damaged areas of the roof with tarps until repairs can be made.
- Emphasize driver training to reduce vehicle collisions.
- Frequently inspect your entire facility, including parking lots, to identify areas that are prone to trip hazards or slip and falls.
- Carefully evaluate and conduct background checks on staff and volunteers. Make sure your training program includes sexual abuse prevention. Evaluate your facility's design to eliminate areas where children can't be seen or heard.

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.