

Winterizing of Richland Parish School Buildings

Heat-on winterization involves keeping the building heated at an overnight or vacated setting of 60 degrees. This approach is the preferred method as it helps avoid indoor humidity, moisture, and freeze-cracking of some building materials such as flooring or drywall.

Here are key topics to consider when winterizing a building:

1. Prepare the building to be left unattended: Identify the staff member(s) who will be responsible for winterizing the school building. It is extremely important that the appropriate measures to winterize be taken prior to school dismissal for cold weather or fall/winter holidays.

a. Turn off unneeded electrical components: Computers, SMART Boards, and other electronic devices that use plug-in wall chargers and voltage converters are always using electricity. Unplug sensitive electronic equipment to protect against power surges or lightning.

b. Cold air drafts: Ensure all windows and doors are closed as well as locked and secured. Identify and secure any areas that may create cold air drafts. Freezing temperatures combined with wind drafts can cause pipes to freeze more frequently.

c. Athletic facilities: Add antifreeze to commodes in field houses, stadiums, and other detached building to prevent pipe freezing.

d. Monitoring: Identified staff member(s) should take the appropriate measures to monitor buildings during school closure (i.e. cold weather closure, Thanksgivings, Christmas/New Year).

e. Protect against rodent and animal damage: Close openings into soffits, attics, basements, crawl spaces; be sure all trash has been removed from the building.

f. Main water valve: Identify the location of the main water valve. If a pipe bursts, the first step should be to shut off the water at the main valve.

g. Other building details: Ensure building exhaust fans are off. If the building has an exhaust fan that leaks or blows cold air in or leaks warm air out, cover the opening. Remember to remove those covers before use to avoid a fire risk.

h. *Dripping faucet: If possible, allow a faucet to drip slightly in order to minimize freezing.*

Reference: http://inspectapedia.com/plumbing/Pipe_Freeze_Protection.htm