



# SISC BULLETIN

SELF-INSURED SCHOOLS of CALIFORNIA

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October 2009

TO: District Superintendents  
Directors, Maintenance and Operations  
SISC II Member Districts

FROM: Timothy L. Beard  
Manager, Risk Management Services

SUBJECT: Use of Dry Ice

It is the time of year for fall carnivals, proms, and homecoming football games. The season brings with it the potential use of dry ice to enhance the atmosphere of these events. Therefore, the content of this bulletin is meant to serve as a reminder of the hazards regarding dry ice and SISC's recommendation against its use.

Dry ice is listed as a hazardous material by the federal government. Students should not be using or handling dry ice under any circumstances. Hazards associated with the use of dry ice include:

Burns: Dry ice is a cryogenic material that can cause severe frostbite burns to skin.

Explosion: If stored in an air tight container, pressure may build potentially causing an explosion.

Toxic: Although dry ice is not poisonous, if even a small piece is ingested, it could be fatal or at least cause severe damage to internal organs.

Suffocation: If used in confined areas, the carbon dioxide emitted may displace oxygen causing an oxygen deficient environment.

Dry ice may also be used in science programs. School administrators should inform staff that the use of dry ice by any student is prohibited. SISC does not recommend the use of dry ice by a district under any circumstances. The hazards outweigh the benefit.

If you have any questions, please call your SISC Risk Management Services representative.

TLB:sh

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