Common Areas and Shared Spaces – School Safety Stats and Facts



FACTS

1. **Cluttered Walkways:** Backpacks, equipment, or debris in hallways and common areas create tripping hazards, increasing the risk of falls for students and staff, especially during high-traffic times.
2. **Slippery Surfaces:** Spills or wet floors in cafeterias, restrooms, or entrances, if not promptly addressed, lead to slips and falls, particularly in shared spaces without proper signage or cleaning protocols.
3. **Overcrowding Risks:** Overcrowded hallways or cafeterias during transitions or lunch periods can result in collisions, pushing, or difficulty evacuating during emergencies.
4. **Inadequate Maintenance:** Poorly maintained shared spaces, such as broken handrails in stairwells or dim lighting in hallways, heighten the risk of accidents and injuries.
5. **Fire and Evacuation Hazards:** Blocked exits or obstructed fire equipment in common areas, like gymnasiums or libraries, can delay emergency evacuations, endangering occupants.
6. **Hygiene Concerns:** Shared spaces like restrooms or staff rooms with inadequate cleaning or sanitation supplies can spread germs, increasing illness rates among students and staff.
7. **Lack of Supervision:** Insufficient monitoring in common areas, such as playgrounds or hallways, can lead to unsafe behaviors, bullying, or accidents, compromising overall safety.

STATS

- A 2020 Journal of School Health study found that 18% of student injuries in schools occurred in common areas, with 60% attributed to trips over clutter or slips on wet surfaces.
- WorkSafeBC reported in 2022 that 22% of school staff injuries in British Columbia were slips, trips, and falls in shared spaces like hallways and cafeterias, often due to poor housekeeping.
- The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) noted in 2021 that 25% of school staff injuries in common areas were linked to inadequate maintenance, such as uneven flooring or poor lighting.
- A 2021 Statistics Canada survey indicated that 20% of school administrators reported safety concerns in shared spaces due to overcrowding or insufficient

supervision during peak times.

- A 2022 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) report found that 15% of school fire safety violations involved blocked exits or obstructed fire equipment in common areas like gymnasiums.
- The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) stated in 2023 that schools with regular cleaning protocols in shared spaces reduced illness-related absenteeism by up to 25%.