

THE INSURANCE ADVISOR

For America's Churches and Related Ministries from Brotherhood Mutual and Its Agents

WAYS TO PREVENT WATER DAMAGE IN YOUR CHURCH

ISSUE 19—WHAT STEPS CAN YOU TAKE TO AVOID WATER DAMAGE?

Water damage losses may go undetected for several days and often result in major building repairs.

Water damage can ruin your pews, hymnals, and carpeting, destroy computer equipment, and delay worship services.

To avoid many of the hassles associated with water damage, follow these tips for preventing some of its common causes in your church.

FROZEN PIPES

- During the winter months, if you turn down the heat to conserve energy, keep the entire building at a minimum of 50 degrees.
- Before winter, inspect attics and other places where pipes run to be sure that you have enough insulation.
- Drain all water pipes in unheated buildings. Most systems have a drainage plug you can pull to drain the water. To prevent any remaining water from freezing, place non-toxic antifreeze in drainage traps.
- Check unheated buildings daily during extreme cold. This allows a quick response to problems if they occur.



Louis Blosch Insurance Agency • 9726 E. 42nd St., Suite 210, Tulsa, OK 74146 • 918.664.7100

Establishing a routine plumbing maintenance program—checking pipes for leaky joints and shut off valves—can help you prevent problems associated with water damage.

BAPTISTRY OVERFLOW

- Stay near the baptistry while you fill it. That way, if a drainage problem occurs, you can turn off the water source immediately.
- Check all water lines leading to the baptistry for hints of leaks.
- If your baptistry has an overflow pipe, make sure nothing's covering or clogging it.

TOILET OVERFLOW

- Verify that flushing mechanisms work properly.
- Check high-usage toilets frequently for foreign objects. Pay special attention to those in children's Sunday school rooms.

SURFACE WATER

- Make sure all windows and doors are securely closed each night.
- Make sure all doors seal properly at the base, particularly those at the bottom of outside stairwells, to prevent water coming in under the door.
- Have a backup power supply to the sump pump to ensure operation in the event of a power outage.

In addition to these safety precautions, you may want to set up a routine plumbing maintenance program. Check pipes regularly, and look for leaky joints and shut-off valves.

Louis Blosch Insurance Agency

We insure over 300 churches in North East Oklahoma. We offer this information to help you better administer your church business. The less time you spend on problems which arise from a claim is more time you

can spend spreading the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our team professionals are Louis Blosch, Jerry Hendon, Chuck Lewis, Guy Landes and Clayton Haggard.



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Insurance Company

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6400 Brotherhood Way • P.O. Box 2227 • Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2227 • 1.800.876.4994 • www.brotherhoodmutual.com