



Preventing Slips, Trips, and Falls

Slips, trips, and falls are a leading cause of costly accidents at our Church, School, Camp or Office facilities. Such accidents often result from slippery surfaces, changes in surface elevations, including potholes, cracks, settling or lifting of sidewalks, and other conditions. Periodic self-inspections of facilities should identify conditions that can result in slips, trips, and falls, and action should be taken to correct any hazards that exist.

Preventing the Problem Inside and Out

- Repair cracks, potholes and uneven ground in roads and parking lots.
- Repair cracked and chipped sidewalks and areas where tree roots have caused uneven surfaces. Until repairs are made, use yellow caution tape or traffic cones along the edge of the hazard to alert employees and visitors.
- Keep sidewalks and other walkways clear of leaves, limbs, stones and other debris.
- Install handrails on all steps and ramps where handrails currently don't exist.
- Repair broken or loose handrails, damaged steps and stair edgings.
- Repair or replace damaged linoleum or tile surfaces.
- Repair torn carpets and stretch out wrinkled carpets.
- Use doormats with tapered edges and non-slip bottoms in entryways. The use of towels, scatter rugs and other slippery materials on floors can cause slips, trips, and falls.
- Do not run electrical cords, phone cords, computer cables or plumbing across floors and passageways.
- Maintain good organization in storage areas, workspaces, and corridors.
- Ensure that adequate lighting is available in all areas of the facility, both inside and outside.
- Eliminate sources of leaks. Wet surfaces are slippery surfaces.
- Prevent and elimination wet floor conditions in cafeterias and kitchens by:
 - Providing rubber mats with tapered edges around kitchen dishwashing areas and other key locations of the kitchen where water is frequently used or can puddle.
 - Ensuring that cafeteria freezers operate properly to prevent ice buildup on freezer floors.



Have Zero Tolerance

Adopt a program of “Zero Tolerance” for spills and other conditions that result in wet floors. That includes:

- Requiring spills or other wet floor conditions to be immediately cleaned up when observed or, if duties prevent such action, ensuring that the appropriate individual or department is notified immediately after a spill or wet floor is noticed.
- Putting out “Wet Floor” signs in the affected area and leaving “Wet Floor” signs in place until the floor is dry.

Protect Your People

Many slips and falls can be attributed to work practices and equipment. Make the following guidelines mandatory to protect your people.

- Workers should wear proper footwear with slip-resistant soles and heels.
- Train workers in the proper use of ladders and stepladders and do not allow them to stand on chairs, boxes, desks, etc.
- Do not allow anyone to get on or off moving vehicles.
- Prohibit running and hurrying, particularly up and down stairs.
- Paint unavoidable tripping hazards in contrasting colors.
- Install required barricades and warning signs where fall hazards exist.
- Provide fall protection equipment and train workers in its use.
- Many jobs that require specialized training should be contracted to professionals.



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