

June 17, 2019

Slip, Trip, and Fall Injuries

Understanding the factors to lead to slip, trip, and fall injuries

Sometimes we look at quick solutions when it comes to solving problems. We do not always fully look at the causes of a problem or the system in which it exists. Many times, this is what happens when we address slip, trip, and fall hazards.

Posting signs, cleaning up messes quickly, advising employees to be more careful are all quick solutions. But they may not be addressing the underlying problem that creates the hazard in the first place. To truly create a safe environment, a few factors need to be looked at to ensure safety.

You need to examine the area and determine what can create a hazard. Different types of areas require different inspection:

Walkways

Are the surfaces stable and level? Is there any type of surface contamination that could make the area slippery? Are there any obstacles or clutter blocking the walkway? Are they in good repair?

Ramps and Stairs

Is there slip resistant treads and nosing? Are risers uniform height? Is the handrail sturdy and in good repair?

Mats and Grates

Are the mats or grates adequate to stop the tracking of mud and water into a facility? Are the mats curling or in need of replacement? Is there a supply of replacement mats nearby if a day should have heavy weather or traffic? Are the mats secure?

Visibility

Is the area properly lighted? Are mirrors used to improve sight lines? Are transitions between surfaces marked?

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BULLETIN


Falls are a leading cause of non-fatal, unintentional injuries treated in emergency rooms. In North America this results in over 8 million hospital visits a year. Any facility that the public can normally access or has high employee traffic should be examined and reviewed regularly to ensure safety.

For any questions or more information, please contact our risk management team:

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A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner of the page. It features a black and white photograph of a large steel truss bridge spanning a river, with a yellow and orange gradient overlay on the right side.

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