

DOES ICY ALWAYS = INJURY?

Employers typically see an increase in injuries and lost work days during the winter months where slips and falls are common. When the weather forecast calls for snow and ice, what can you do to prevent injuries?

1. Wear proper footwear! Those 3-inch stiletto heels are not meant to be worn on the ice. Flat shoes with good traction are best for slippery conditions. If other footwear is a must, wear boots to work and change once you are safely in your office.
2. Conduct an assessment of foot traffic around your buildings. Frequently-traveled paths are created in areas where there are not sidewalks. Plow, shovel, salt, and/or sand the areas where people actually travel to reduce the potential for slips and falls.
3. Install or increase the length of walk-off mats at each entrance to the facility. Walk-off mats allow for the accumulation of snow from footwear without causing slippery floors. They are easier to maintain and care for than carpet, and will reduce the chances of slips and falls in interior hallways.
4. Educate your employees! Check with your worker's compensation carrier or environmental, health, and safety consultant for flyers that could be e-mailed to staff or posted at entrances. The more information you provide, the more likely your staff will be to protect themselves.
5. What happens on the weekends? Activities may occur in your facilities that may or may not be directly sponsored by your company or district. The liability from injury remains with the property owner. A plan should be in place and documented to handle these instances.



February is Save Your Vision Month

Please visit the

American Academy of Ophthalmology's

website for more information:

http://www.aaopt.org/aaosite/eyemd/save_vision.cfm

MN OSHA Reorganization

In October 2009, MN OSHA reorganized its field staff into four territories—North, Central, Southwest, and Southeast. All territories include part of the metro area. Each territory has 3 industrial hygienists and 9 safety investigators who conduct general industry and construction based inspections. Any one of these investigators may be involved in an inspection of your facility!



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