

Preventing Winter Slips, Trips And Falls

Zenith Insurance Company is committed to helping your business implement and maintain safe work practices. Snow and ice bring an increased risk of slips and falls due to slippery sidewalks, parking lots and work areas.

Slips, trips and falls account for about 15% - 20% of all workers' compensation costs and cause approximately 300,000 injuries and more than 1,500 deaths each year.

Important Tips For Winter Safety

Keep adequate supplies of snow and ice removal tools in readily accessible areas.

Shovel and apply ice melt as often as necessary to keep walking areas clean and dry.

Watch for areas where ice tends to form; remove ice accumulations promptly and apply additional ice melt to prevent buildup.

Contract with a snow removal company to keep your parking lots clear of snow and ice (make sure that the contracted company has workers' compensation insurance). Apply additional ice melt as needed in employee parking areas.

Place high quality, beveled edge mats in walking areas subject to water or snow accumulation. Change mats regularly to ensure those in place are dry and serviceable.

Apply a slip-resistant floor treatment in areas that tend to become wet and slippery. Clean and maintain these floors according to the manufacturer's specifications.

TRAIN EMPLOYEES TO DO THE FOLLOWING

- Encourage employees to wear shoes or boots that are specifically designed to provide traction on wet, slippery surfaces. Strap-on or slip-on footwear designed for winter weather can be worn for additional protection.

- Use walkways that have been salted or shoveled. Discourage taking shortcuts over snow piles and in areas where snow and ice removal is not feasible.
- Test the travel path for slickness by sliding your shoe/boot on it before proceeding.
- Take short steps to maintain your center of balance over your feet.
- Walk slowly; never run on snow or ice covered surfaces.
- When entering and/or exiting vehicles, use the vehicle for support. Never jump from vehicles or equipment.
- When entering a building, remove snow and water from footwear so as not to create wet, slippery conditions indoors.