

Protecting Our Parishes, Missions, and Schools

Leading Causes of Staff Injuries – Slip and Falls

Each year, slip and fall accidents continue to be one of the leading causes of injuries on school grounds. The injuries can range from cuts and minor lacerations, or strains and sprains, to more serious knee or back injuries. Claims statistics continue to show slip-and-fall claims continue to cost School Districts tens of thousands of dollars each year.

What is puzzling to safety experts is the fact that slip and fall exposures are generally easy to recognize, but are not given the necessary attention to report and correct the situation. There are various reasons for this. Often, a staff member will spot the hazard and walk around or over the condition. It is important to remember that many of our students, visitors and colleagues are injured from slip and fall exposures. We must take these conditions seriously. Listed below are five general rules that will assist you in reducing exposures to slip and falls.

RULE ONE: If you spill something on the floor, clean it up immediately.



RULE TWO: If you see a spill on the floor left by others, please clean it up. If you cannot clean it up, report the condition to the office and warn others.

RULE THREE: Understand and recognize areas where slip-and-fall conditions exist on school property. Such areas might include building entrances, cafeterias, breakrooms, restrooms, water fountains, sinks, outside walkways and stairways. Pay close attention to these areas.

RULE FOUR: Know whom you should call and how to report the condition. The report may be directed to the custodian, to the administrative office, or both. Be clear in describing the condition, the location, and the importance of the need to respond to the condition.



RULE FIVE: Pay close attention to newly cleaned, waxed and buffed floors. After cleaning, the floor surface should be no more slippery than before it was cleaned. However, periodically, floor surface conditions change as a result of cleaning. When floor conditions change, shorten your walking stride, and pay close attention to your foot placement. Report slippery floor conditions immediately.

