

Religious Practice Safety Advisor

Preventing Slip and Fall Accidents on Same-Level Floors

Slip and falls on same-level floors are the leading cause of worker injuries on school campuses. To prevent these types of slip/fall accidents, it is important to understand the conditions or contributing factors, which lead to these accidents. Floor surface characteristics (how much surface projections or roughen surface exist), environmental conditions (contaminants that interfere with floor and foot contact), type of footwear (shoe soles, slip resistant properties, and contact surface) and human activity (running, pushing) can increase or decrease the likelihood of slip/falls. You can reduce the risk of slipping by following these best practices:

- Preventing slip and fall accidents begin with identifying the location and areas where slip and fall conditions are likely to exist (e.g., restroom, water fountains, cafeteria, building entrance, break room).
- Clean up spills immediately. Where this is not practical, report the condition and barricade or warn others of these conditions.

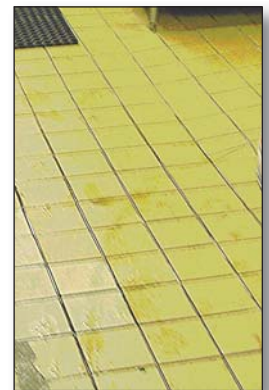
- When changing from one surface to another, such as carpet to tile, the floor surface characteristic (traction) will change resulting in the increase likelihood of slip to occur. Therefore, change your walking pattern (gait) to short strides (keeping center of balance underneath), and make full contact with sole of shoe.
- Wear proper footwear on school campus. Open sandals, high-heeled shoes with small contact surface, or shoes with poor traction properties, should be avoided whenever possible.
- Inclement weather conditions such as rain days. Watch for water on the floor or bringing water on the sole of your shoe into the building. The proper mats should be used for these rain days. Report hazardous (wet) conditions noted on the floor immediately.



Sidewalk.



Entrance way with wet carpet.



Broken and wet floor tiles.



Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services

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