Watching Your Step and Staying Alert – School Safety Stats and Facts



FACTS

1. **Slips, Trips, and Falls Are Major School Hazards.** Slips, trips, and falls are among the most common causes of injuries in educational environments, affecting both students and staff.
2. **Accidents Can Lead to Serious Injury.** Although many falls are minor, others result in serious injuries like sprains, fractures, or head trauma. These injuries often require extended recovery time, especially in high-risk environments such as stairways or icy outdoor areas.
3. **Slips and Falls Are a Leading Cause of Worker Injuries.** Among school employees, falls represent one of the top causes of injuries, leading to days off of work and possible long-term consequences. Staff members are often involved in activities that increase their risk, such as moving large items or conducting outdoor supervision.
4. **Weather Conditions and Environmental Hazards**. Outdoor areas, especially during winter months, present a significant risk for slips and falls. Uneven sidewalks, ice patches, and snow accumulation can easily cause accidents for both staff and students.
5. **Preventative Measures and Safety Protocols.** Ensuring safe walking habits, using handrails, and maintaining clean and dry floors are essential measures that can drastically reduce the likelihood of accidents.

STATS

- Between 2015 and 2020, falls, slips, and trips were the leading cause of workplace injuries among school employees, with over 67,000 incidents reported annually.
- In British Columbia, approximately 7,000 workers are injured annually due to slips, trips, and falls, with a significant portion occurring in academic settings.
- Reports from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in 2020 show that 30% of injury claims in schools involved falls, ranging from minor slips to more severe injuries. (bls.gov)
- Winter weather causes 1,200 fall-related injuries in U.S. schools annually. In colder months, the risk of slip-and-fall accidents rises dramatically. On average, 1,200 fall-related injuries occur in U.S. schools due to icy conditions each year.

- The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) estimates that 33% of work-related injuries in schools are due to slips and falls, making it one of the leading causes of worker injury.
- In Canada, approximately 15,000 workplace injuries annually are attributed to falls, with a significant proportion occurring in educational settings.