Fundamental tips to prevent slips, trips, and falls.
Slips, Trips and Falls –
A Worry Beyond Medical Bills | Part 1

Slips, trips, and falls are among the most common accidents in the work place. While not always preventable, there is much that can be done to minimize the risk of injuries. Employees, students, church members, and visitors are put at risk for serious injury when slip, trip, and fall hazards aren’t noticed and fixed. These dangers can be found in parking lots, sidewalks, hallways, stairwells, and other walkway locations.

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Holiday Safety Webinar
Sunday, November 23, 2014
2:30 PM EDT

By Arthur Blinci, VP Chief Risk Management Officer at Adventist Risk Management, Inc

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Sleigh bells ring are you listening… It’s the holiday season and like it or not we are entering one of the busiest times of the year. Is your church prepared for the holiday season? Holiday programs often involve the building of backdrops, stage
sets, special costumes or just decorating the church. This is an important time of the year to be sure the best safety practices are followed so your congregation can celebrate the season without injury or a tragic accident. As a church safety officer you can learn special safety practices by joining us for our Church Holiday Safety webinar on November 23nd.

Title: **Holiday Safety**
Date: **Sunday, November 23, 2014**
Time: **2:30 PM - 3:30 PM EDT (NOTE THE TIME ZONE)**

BAD THINGS COME FOR THOSE WHO WAIT.

Insurance industry statistics show that delays in claim reporting causes difficulty in resolving claims and increases the cost.

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Slips, Trips and Falls - A Worry Beyond Medical Bills | Part 1 – Adventist Risk Management

Slips, trips, and falls are among the most common accidents in the work place. While not always preventable, there is much that can be done to minimize the risk of injuries. Employees, students, church members, and visitors are put at risk for serious injury when slip, trip, and fall hazards aren’t noticed and fixed. These dangers can be found in parking lots, sidewalks, hallways, stairwells, and other walkway locations. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported a total of 4,383 fatal work injuries for the calendar year 2012. Of the fatality cases, 668 were associated with falls. Besides pain and costly medical bills, there are many other financial burdens that can affect the injured individual, as well as the institution. These include loss of productivity, loss of earnings, and potential civil liability, which may result in workers’ compensation and/or General Liability claims. Each of these highlights the importance of prevention of these losses.

**POTENTIAL HAZARDS**
The most frequent complaints related to slips and falls are shoulder, back, elbow, wrist, and knee injuries due to one of the following:

- Substances and spills on walkway surfaces; including oil, water, and/or other liquid surface contamination
- Lack of training and/or knowledge about slips, trips, and falls
- Mats or rugs which become torn, unanchored, or loose
- Loose power or audio-visual cords across floors or aisle ways
- Weather-related conditions like rain, snow, and/or ice
- Use of inappropriate footwear
- Walkway surfaces that are in disrepair
- Sheen/smooth walkway surfaces that do not allow for adequate footwear-traction

Training employees to use hazard-awareness and prevention practices such as safety signs when wet mopping floors are essential to reducing those numbers. Once trained, common sense also plays an important role in slips, trips, and fall prevention.

**PREVENTIVE MEASURES**
OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Administration) floor safety recommendations for slips, trips, and fall prevention include:

- Keep floor surfaces clean and dry.
- Ensure wet-floor warning signs are posted in and around wet floor locations as well as providing and maintaining adequate drainage.
- Maintain clear walkway surfaces and ensure parking lot areas are in good repair.
- Provide floor plugs for power equipment to ensure power cords are not run across walkways paths.
- Report and clean up spills immediately.
- Provide non-slip coating or surfaces in slippery locations.
- Minimize carpet and matting trip hazards.
- Use prudent housekeeping procedures and provide adequate lighting in poorly lit areas such as halls and stairwells.
- Maintain and eliminate uneven floor surfaces.

Following these safety practices can help minimize slip, trip, and fall accidents at your church and school. Adventist Risk Management appreciates your interest in safety. Those who frequent your location will appreciate it too. For more information visit [www.Adventistrisk.org/Prevention](http://www.Adventistrisk.org/Prevention)

by: CArina Franca  
**MARKETING ANALYST**

Adventist Risk Management, Inc.

**Reference:**
United States Department of Labor – [www.OSHA.gov](http://www.OSHA.gov)
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Lost-Worktime Injuries and Illness
NIOSH: Fall Injuries Prevention in the Workplace
ANSSI: [https://www.ansi.org](https://www.ansi.org)