



Daily Safety Message

Date:

Today's Weather

Temperature	Winds	Humidity

Incident Review Yesterday

Employee Injury Type	
What Happened	
Prevention Activity	
Auto Crash	
What Happened	
Prevention Activity	

Safety Message

Falls

Falls are the reason for 21 percent of all emergency room visits in the U.S. These tumbles translate to almost 9 million patients being seen each year in the ER because of fall-related injuries. With such a high percentage of ER visits relating to falling, it's the No. 1 cause of accidental injury in the country. Falling, tripping and slipping are also the second most common reason for accidental death, following just behind car crashes.

Falls aren't just a significant problem at people's home in the U.S. It's an issue that's particularly damaging to people at work, with 35 percent of all workplace accidents coming from falls.

Workforce Falls

Whether a fall occurs at work or not, there's a good chance that it can hurt your ability to perform your job optimally. Between 20 and 30 percent of fall victims are injured in ways that can hurt their ability to move independently.

Injuries related to falls account for 85 percent of all workers' compensation claims and can translate to an average cost of more than \$20,000 per slip. Employers and

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insurance companies pay out more than \$70 billion a year for workers' compensation and medical expenses because of slips and falls.

In addition to the raw costs that falling can bring to a company, it also accounts for a significant amount of missed work. People who get injured from a fall or slip miss an average of 38 days. On a national scale, falls account for 95 million missed days of work a year.

Prevention

One of the worst parts about the severity of these slip and fall injuries and the resulting costs is that they're often preventable. There are several efforts that employees and supervisors can take to limit the likelihood of injury. These include cleaning up spills promptly, keeping walkways clear of debris, wires and cords, and avoiding loose rugs. Slip-resistant shoes are also critical in reducing the dangers that floors, walkways and surfaces present at work.