

Safety Tips – Preventing Slips, Trips, and Falls

Mark, a software engineer, was entering work on a brisk day in January 2012 when he slipped and fell in the parking lot due to black ice. Mark felt a pop in his knee and immediately sought medical attention. His doctor diagnosed him with a strained knee and recommended that he stay home for two weeks (example only, this does not reflect actual events).

In 2012, 360 Massachusetts employees reported falling on snow or ice and missed work. These are easily preventable accidents. Protect your employees during winter weather by inspecting building conditions, and implementing preventive maintenance strategies.

Building and Ground Maintenance

- Keep exits clear.
- Inspect all doors daily to ensure emergency egress routes are clear.



- Prevent drainage pipes from depositing water onto sidewalks.
- Repair drainage problems that cause standing water and ice.
- Provide “Wet Floor” signs in prominent locations near building entrances.
- Provide a barrel of sand or salt near the entrances.



- Install at least 15 feet of mats inside the building at each public entrance to capture wetness, which can make floors slippery.
- Inspect mats for bumps or uneven edges which could be a trip hazard.



- Keep railings secure and accessible.
- Keep stairs clear of ice and snow.



- Inspect parking lots for ice, and apply de-icer, so employees may safely enter and exit their cars.
- Keep walkways, stairs, and parking lots shoveled and sanded.
- Close parking spots temporarily if ice cannot be controlled.

