Working & Traveling Off Premises – Preventing Slips, Trips & Falls Year Round

Employees traveling on business away from your company’s facility are presented with unique slip, trip and fall exposures not only during the winter months, but all year round. While slip, trip and fall hazards can be controlled at your own site, employees traveling on business can find themselves facing precarious conditions when they reach their final destination.

Home health care professionals, truck drivers, sales personnel and other employees traveling on business often encounter parking lots, sidewalks and steps which may not be properly maintained, or wet floors which could cause a slip, trip and/or fall injury. Here are a few tips to consider for preventing all year round slip, trip and fall injuries while traveling on business to customer locations.

- **Parking** – Park as close to the customer’s building as possible. Park in visitor’s parking when available and park where the parking lot is well lit during early or late hours.
- **Exiting a Vehicle** – Many slip, trip and fall injuries take place next to vehicles. When exiting the car, scan the area where you will be parking for potholes, puddles and loose gravel.
- **Travel Path** – Walk in designated walkways, scanning the travel path in front of you. Watch for uneven sidewalks, changes in elevations, curbs and parking blocks and debris on the sidewalks. Don’t take shortcuts through landscaping.
- **Carrying Laptops and Materials** – When possible, drive up to the site first and unload your laptop and materials. Also, using a cart to move the items from car to building is suggested.
- **Footwear** – Always wear the appropriate footwear. It is best to keep an extra pair of shoes in the trunk of your car for all year-round situations that may occur. Closed toe shoes are recommended for all business calls, and preferably no high heels that could cause a slip, trip or fall.
- **Steps and Handrails** – Maintain contact with handrails as you ascend or descend steps. If possible, use a carrying case with a shoulder strap. Be aware of certain heels getting caught in some types of treading on steps, or be aware of coping coming loose on the edge of the steps. At a minimum keep one hand free for balance and use of handrail.
- **Floors** – Once inside, beware of the condition of the flooring. Make note of frayed or torn carpeting, curled up floor mats, wet floors or lack of floor mats, or recently cleaned or waxed floors. Be sure to take off your sunglasses once inside, or switch your glasses to an inside pair. Also, if eye protection is required at your customer’s site, make sure that the fit is good and that you are able to see well through the glasses.
- **Walkways** – Let the customer lead the way in their own building. Watch for aisles that are obstructed, file cabinet drawers or other employees who may not be aware you are walking by.
Useful Links

Links to Slip Resistant Footwear:

- [https://www.shoesforcrews.com/](https://www.shoesforcrews.com/)

Links to Laptop Carrying Carts:

- [http://www.google.com/products?q=rolling+laptop+cases&hl=en](http://www.google.com/products?q=rolling+laptop+cases&hl=en)
- [http://www.google.com/products?q=rolling+laptop+carrying+cart&hl=en](http://www.google.com/products?q=rolling+laptop+carrying+cart&hl=en)

Our safety evaluations, reports and recommendations are made solely to assist your organization in reducing hazards and the potential of hazards and accidents. These recommendations were developed from conditions observed and information provided at the time of our visit. They do not attempt to identify every possible loss potential, hazard or risk, nor do they guarantee that workplace accidents will be prevented. These safety evaluations, reports and recommendations are not a substitute for ongoing, well-researched internal safety and risk management programs. This report does not warrant that the property inspected and its operations are compliant with any law, rule or regulation.