Companies can reduce the chance of slips and falls by making use of outdoor safety cones, signs, heated walking mats and other equipment that alert employees to the dangers of ice and snow. This document outlines some key things you can do when faced with conditions that could cause injury, as well as sources for the safety equipment every business should keep on hand.
When weather forecasts indicate conditions may include freezing rain or snowfall, facility personnel should place safety cones and temporary signs in position near entrances, sidewalks, steps and parking lots to make employees aware of slip and fall hazards.

Designated personnel should make periodic inspections of the grounds early in the morning before employees arrive. Inspections should also be done periodically throughout the day to determine if ice has formed or snow has accumulated. Appropriate personnel may then need to be contacted to plow snow and apply salt or other surface treatments.

Temporary barricades should be placed in areas to prevent employees from walking through landscaping or creating their own make-shift paths, which increases the likelihood of fall injuries. Many serious injuries take place when employees take the shortest route rather than traveling on designated walkways, which are plowed and salted properly.

Permanently-installed Ice Alert or LED signs are also available to alert employees about conditions when they’re entering the parking lot in the morning or leaving the premises for lunch or at the end of the shift. Many LED signs are programmable so they can be used to communicate various messages at different times of the year.

Outdoor heated floor mats are available to melt snow and ice before it accumulates and provide a walkway free of slip hazards. They come in different sizes and lengths to accommodate various types of walkways and steps. These are portable and can be removed in the spring.

Indoor floor mats should also be placed within entrances to dry footwear, cover potentially slippery flooring, and pick up snow, ice and water deposited from footwear. Extra mats should be kept on hand to change out mats that have been saturated.

Useful Resources

Safety Cones — reflective or with LED lights:
- http://www.trafficsafetyexperts.com/sptro5pwlled.html

Slip and fall signs

Temperature-sensitive parking lot signs:
- http://www.icealert.com/

Snow-melting/heated mats:
- http://www.heattrak.com/

LED signs

A-Frame sign stands: