

Safety Talks



CARPETS, CORDS & CABINETS - OH MY!

In our schools some of the more common contributing factors to trip, slip and fall accidents are unsecured carpeting and mats, curled rugs and mats, cords running across walkways and file cabinet drawers being left open.



CARPETS, MATS & RUGS

- Inspect carpets, rugs and mats frequently to ensure that there are no rolls or curled edges that create a trip hazard.
- Some carpets may need to be stretched to get rid of bunches and wrinkles.
- Entry mats should have a skid-resistant backing. Secure the ends and adjust them to prevent rolls. Replace rugs and mats when they show excessive wear.

Many times, especially in older school buildings, there are not always outlets where we need them resulting in cords being run on the floor, often across areas where staff and students may walk. We also see cords that dangle from the desktop to the floor. Our feet can easily get tangled in these cords causing us to trip and fall.

To address this:

- Install additional electrical outlets where they are needed.
- Route cords so they don't cross walkways whenever possible.
- If that cannot be avoided, cover the cords with a cord cover - secure with heavy-duty tape only if temporary.
- Tie up any cords that might pose a trip hazard.
- Don't set up computers with their backs facing a walkway.
- Place hanging cords in a cord harness or zip-tie and secure to the desk.

CABINETS

Another cause of trips and falls are low-level desk and filing cabinet drawers left open. Not only can these cause falls, but the sharp edges can be a source of a laceration or bruise. Close all drawers as soon as you are done with them.

One important strategy for slip, trip and fall prevention is to maintain awareness of your surroundings. Keep your eyes on the path ahead and look for potential hazards. Report hazards that you cannot remedy yourself.



NEAR-MISS NANCY
& SAFETY SAM

Toe caught on the rug - SPLAT!



Tripping over cords - YIKES!



Open drawers - OUCH!

