

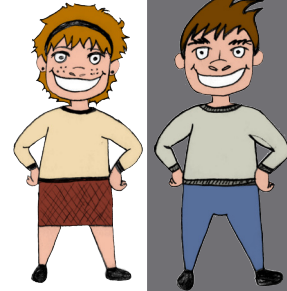
Safety Talks



PITFALLS IN THE PARKING LOT

Stop falls
before they
stop you!

Areas that are often overlooked until an accident occurs are the school's parking lots and walkways. Slips, trips, and falls can occur in these areas any time of year, but the winter months tend to have the highest frequency of these injuries because of ice and snow. During winter it may be dark when employees arrive and leave, reducing visibility and increasing risk. Sam and Nancy suggest that your school consider the following to "stop falls before they stop you!"



- Loose gravel, trash, mulch from landscaping, mud, leaves, and engine oil or antifreeze from leaking cars should be cleaned up regularly.
- Repair potholes as soon as practical.
- Tree roots can cause sidewalks to heave and buckle causing serious trip and fall hazards. These areas should be identified and corrected.
- Plow, shovel and use de-icing, salting or ice melting chemicals to remove ice and snow.
- Wear proper footwear to provide adequate traction.
- Paint curbs, islands, ramps and other elevation changes a contrasting color with slip resistant paint.
- Tire stops should be anchored and marked with a contrasting color.
- Direct drainage away from sidewalks and other pedestrian traffic areas.
- Maintain adequate outdoor lighting.
- Encourage your staff to report any hazardous conditions they observe.
- Fill-in and patch cracks, depressions and holes greater than 1/2 inch wide in sidewalks.
- Prune landscaping that is closest to sidewalks. If unchecked, the vegetation can overtake the sidewalk, creating trip and fall hazards.
- Utility covers and drain grates should be flush with the walking surface. If located in a walkway or common path of travel, paint contrasting color around edges with slip resistant paint.
- When exiting/entering your vehicle, make sure you have firm footing with one or both feet before putting your entire weight down. You should maintain contact with the door, car roof or assist handle.
- Remove any items placed in the path of travel, such as trash cans and garden planters.

Safety
Sam says
"Keeping
your outdoor
surfaces

free from hazards
by carefully
inspecting and
maintaining them
is one of the best
ways to reduce
the likelihood of
injuries caused by
slips and falls."



"Let's be alert to our surroundings and avoid
those pitfalls in the parking lot!"

