



Southwest Washington Workers'
Compensation Trust

School employees...Work together to prevent injuries

No one likes to see a student or co-worker hurt. The most frequent injuries occur to school employees when they slip, trip or fall and due to lifting or other physical activities. By working together, many injuries can be prevented.

How can you help prevent injuries?

Discourage students, teachers and others from climbing on desks or chairs. They are not built for the weight of a person and many injuries occur because of falls off of these items.

Encourage the use of step ladders with hand holds in each work area. Use them. Hold on to the handle.

Discourage overloading of garbage cans and recycling bins. Custodians are frequently injured by lifting heavy bags of trash.

Reduce clutter. This will help you stay organized, prevent trips, slips and falls, and make it easier for custodial staff to clean the building. Reduce clutter in every location- office areas, classrooms, cafeterias, gymnasiums and vocational education areas.

Recycle as much paper as possible. Take reasonable amounts of paper to the recycling bins regularly.

Reduce food consumption and drinking anything but water outside of the kitchen and dining area.

Clean spills quickly to prevent stains and to reduce the risk of another person slipping and falling.

Report hazardous conditions or situations to your supervisor. Most school districts have a procedure to prioritize repairs as well as to address other threats to the safety of school personnel.

SafeSchools on-line training site offers additional school safety guidelines. The General Safety Orientation course is a good place to start. For more information call an ESD 112 Loss Control Specialist at (360) 750-7504.