SLIP / TRIP / FALL PREVENTION 2014-2015

Slips, trips and falls have caused the most work-related injuries for the members of the Southwest Washington Workers’ Compensation Trust over the past four school years. In an effort to turn this trend around, the ESD 112 Loss Control Department is rolling out a new safety campaign focused on this specific issue.

The STOP FALLS BEFORE THEY STOP YOU! campaign will include a variety of prevention materials throughout the coming year. Near-Miss Nancy and Safety Sam will provide tips to keep both employees and students safe by avoiding some common hazards that cause slips, trips and falls.

SLIPS

Slips happen when there is too little traction between footwear and the walking surface. Common causes of slips are:

- wet or oily surfaces
- inattention
- spills
- weather hazards
- loose or unanchored rugs and mats
- poor footwear choices

TRIPS

Trips happen when the foot strikes an object causing a loss of balance. Common causes of tripping are:

- obstructed view
- poor lighting
- clutter - student backpacks for example
- wrinkled carpeting, rugs and mats
- cords and cables
- open drawers
- uneven walking surfaces (steps, thresholds, curbs)

FALLS

Both slips and trips result from some kind of unintended or unexpected change in the contact between the feet and the ground or walking surface. This shows that good housekeeping, quality of walking surfaces (flooring), selection of proper footwear, and appropriate pace of walking are critical for preventing fall accidents.

Did You Know?

During the 2013-2014 school year, the Southwest Washington Workers Compensation Trust incurred $698,634 for claims from slips, trips and falls.

That represents 38% of all incurred costs for the year.

Slips, trips and falls accounted for 33% of all claims filed during the last school year.

Near-Miss Nancy & Safety Sam