



## SCHOOLCOMP PROGRAM MANAGER

Workers' Compensation Newsletter

December 2018

### WINTER WEATHER SAFETY TIPS:

- Focus on your footing. Watch where you walk.
- Walk like a penguin. Use short, slow steps.
- Don't use your cell phone while walking from the parking lot or on stairs.
- Use handrails on stairways and don't rush.
- Free up your hands. Use a carrying case with a shoulder strap for papers.
- Wear appropriate footwear—no high heels or smooth-soled shoes.
- When exiting a vehicle, swing both legs out. Place both feet on the ground and use your hands for support.



### WINTER-PROOFING YOUR WORKPLACE

Are you ready for winter?

Even if you'd rather not think about the cold weather around the corner, now is the perfect time to mitigate the safety risks posed by snow and icy weather. During the winter months, employee slip and falls are one of the most common type of workplace accidents. They can happen anytime, to anyone, and they can lead to serious injuries, including concussions, broken bones and herniated discs.

Every year, we see preventable employee injuries caused by winter slip and fall hazards. The fallout from these injuries can include:

- Negative impact on the lives of injured employees
- Lost productivity
- Replacement employee costs
- Increased workers' compensation costs

To reduce these types of incidents, it's important for employers to prepare for winter conditions and generate safety awareness among employees. The good news is that slip and fall injuries don't have to "just happen." You can do a lot to prevent these injuries from occurring.

#### Prepare your workplace.

- **Discuss expectations with your maintenance staff.** Develop a plan to quickly remove snow and ice accumulation with salt and other surface treatments. Determine which entrances should be cleared first, how often snow removal should occur, and who is responsible for performing particular tasks.
- **Spot check for hazards.** Make sure lighting for parking lots and sidewalks is working properly so employees can see patches of snow and ice.
- **Use previous injury claims to set your priorities.** Determine which areas are most susceptible to slip-and-fall incidents and consider possible solutions to eliminate the risks associated with these problem areas.
- **Make plans to prevent indoor slips.** Strategically place "wet floor" signs to slow people down as they enter the building.
- **Clean up spills or puddles immediately.** Develop procedures for cleaning up spills and puddles caused by melting snow and ice that is tracked inside a building.