

SAFETY TALK

Environmental Health and Safety Newsletter

January 2022

Winter Walking Safety

In 2021 we had 126 employees injured due to slips and trips; resulting in 1,065 days away from work. Many of these injuries are caused by unsafe behaviors or decisions, and failure to correct unsafe conditions when they are recognized. Review the following list of tips to help reduce your risk of injury when walking around campus or at home in the winter.

Here are some safety tips for walking in the winter:

- Plan ahead and give yourself sufficient time.
- When walking on steps, always use the hand railings and plant your feet firmly on each step.
- When walking on an icy or snow-covered walkway, take short steps and walk at a slower pace so you can react quickly to a change in traction.
- Bending your knees a little and taking slower and shorter steps increases traction and can greatly reduce your chances of falling. It also helps to stop occasionally to break momentum.
- Streets and sidewalks that have been cleared of snow and ice should still be approached with caution. Look out for "black ice." Dew, fog or water vapor can freeze on cold surfaces and form an extra-thin, nearly invisible layer of ice that can look like a wet spot on the pavement. It often shows up early in the morning or in areas that are shaded from the sun.
- Carrying heavy items can challenge your sense of balance. Try not to carry too much--you need to leave your hands and arms free to better balance yourself.
- Be prepared to fall and try to avoid using your arms to break your fall. If you fall backward, make a conscious effort to tuck your chin so your head doesn't strike the ground with a full force.
- When entering a building, remove as much snow and water from your boots as you can. Take notice that floors and stairs may be wet and slippery--walk carefully.
- Use special care when entering and exiting vehicles--use the vehicle for support.

Date.	
Department:	
Supervisor (please print):	
Supervisor Signature:	
Employee Participants: **Please Print Clearly**	Signature
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Supervisor must perform safety talk for the noted month and ensure all employees sign off on this form. Completed form is to be kept on file by department.