



Safety Matters

Slip, Trip and Fall Prevention

Avoiding Slips, Trips & Falls

Slip, trip and fall incidents account for **approximately 60% of all the claims filed in the amusements industry**, by employees or guests. These instances are, however, one of the most preventable types of personal injury claim.

The cost of a slip, trip or fall incident is significant, with some of the worst-case scenario settlements stretching into the millions of dollars for something caused by a simple trip on broken concrete.

The full spectrum of injuries resulting from slips and falls range from scrapes and bruises, to broken bones and even death.

Reduce Workers Comp Claims

Slips and falls account for millions of work-related injuries every year, and an unguarded wet floor is just one of the many possible causes. It is important to spot unsafe conditions that could lead to slips and falls, and do what you can to prevent them.

The worst falls are from elevated positions such as ladders, and can result in serious injury or death. If your employees utilize ladders to complete necessary tasks, you must implement strict standards for your staff to follow.

Ladders should only be used when employees need to reach an item.

Discipline employees: If an employee stands on buckets, chairs, boxes or other unapproved objects, they must

receive a written notice of a safety violation.

Don't over-reach. Employees should always have control of their balance when working from a ladder. They should never climb a ladder with their hands full, and always transport tools in their proper carrying devices.

Qualified for the job: If a person lacks the coordination and strength to safely work with a ladder without falling off, they must be then moved to a different position if available.

Warning Signs: The ground on which the ladder stands should be stable, dry and even. When in doubt, a second employee must hold the ladder for stability; the area cleaned or have the ladder moved to a safer location. Employees should never step on top of a ladder.

Maintenance: Ladders must be checked before **every use**. Ensure total stability and that there are no broken parts. All unsafe ladders should be removed from service.

Eliminate Guest Hazards

There are various ways a guest can suffer a slip or fall while on your property. They can slip and lose their balance, trip over objects left improperly in a walkway, or simply fall from an elevated position to the ground.



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The following is a list of some of the most common and preventable trip, slip and fall hazards.

Leaks and Puddles:

Anything posing a slip and fall hazard must be immediately addressed. A staff member seeing a problem should stand by the hazard to keep people away and radio for help.

Orange cones and tape should section off the area. Any underlying source of a problem (e.g., a leak that continues to spread) must be dealt with, and any spilled item (e.g., food, oil, soda) must be rapidly cleaned up—and never left to deal with later. Puddles where guests and employees walk should never be ignored.

Particular care should be taken when water mixes with any dirt, creating a muddy slick or with oil, creating a highly slippery surface.

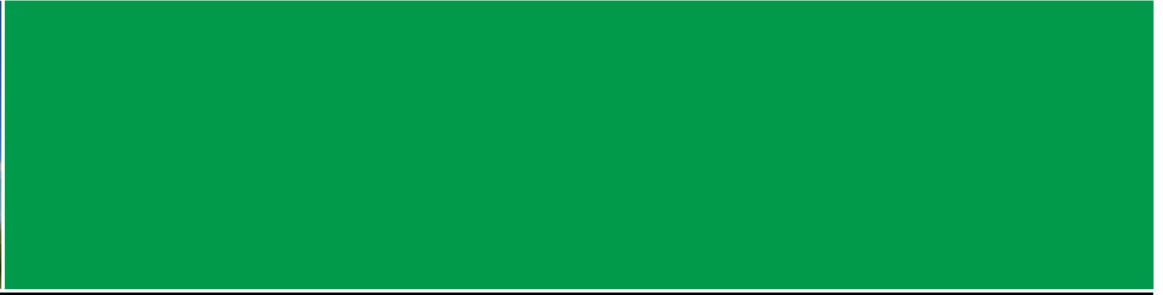
- **Water Fountains:** Carpeting should always surround indoor water fountains as it is a less slippery material linoleum when wet.
- **Bathroom Leaks:** Overflowing sinks and toilets should have signage warning of wet floors and guests should be directed to other working facilities.
- **Hoses, sprinklers:** Must fix leaky hoses or sprinklers that douse walkways.
- **Café coolers:** any dripping unit must be fixed.
- **Mopped floors:** MUST put up multiple signage from every angle of

approach (e.g., a wet floor with multiple hallways leading to it must have a “wet floor” signage placed at each entrance point to the wet floor). When floors are dry, promptly remove such warning signs.

- **Vomit:** A slip hazard that can also generate an emotional trauma claim if a guest slips and falls into the vomit.
- **Suntan lotion around water attractions:** Build-up due to suntan oil or lotions can make watery areas around slides and other water attractions extremely slippery. Caution signs should be clearly posted and a no-running policy should be enforced at all times.
- **Leaky roofs or ceilings:** Leaky roofs and ceilings pose not just a slip hazard, but a potential debris-falling hazard if the ceiling tiles fall or if a roof caves in. Putting a single orange cone beneath such a leak is NOT adequate; the entire area must be blocked off, and repairs made on an urgent basis.

Walkway Hazards:

- **Aluminum walkways/bridges:** Can be slippery when wet or with ice. Place no-slip stripping across such structures.
- **Workplace Clutter:** All maintenance shops and other work areas must have a predefined path, highlighted in bright orange or yellow, which is always clear. This gives people a clear path to walk on without the fear of tripping on items.



- **Workplace Floors:** Dependent on the type of material, some floors are prone to becoming slippery. If necessary, slip-resistant strips should be placed across floors.
- **Garbage and Dirty Premises:** If a park or area within it is generally dirty, with garbage lying around, a jury is likely to *presume* that a plaintiff tripped and fell because the park was cluttered. Keeping the premises clean and picked up of all trash is imperative when defending a slip and fall claim.
- **Kitchens:** Greasy floors are common in kitchens, particularly where a fryer is used. Each park must assess its own situation, but at a minimum, think about using appropriate mats (and cleaning them every day), using grease-absorbent and/or non-slip substances sprinkled on the floor, and requiring workers to wear non-slip shoes. In addition, drainage gates must be closely monitored to ensure they are secure; loose ones can easily trip an employee who is rushing about.
- **Wires/Cords:** Must always be covered with carpeting or yellow jackets if its necessary for cords to be above ground or across a pathway.
- **Stairs Must Be Edged in Bright Orange or Yellow:** Facility stairs should be edged in highlighter orange or yellow, especially when open at night when lighting casts shadows or glare. Steps at all water attractions should have appropriate non-slip material.
- **Tree Roots and Cracked/Uneven Pavement:** If there are tree roots beside a path, or cracked/uneven pavement, you should highlight it in bright orange. However, this marking is not a “cure all”. Any hazard that can be corrected must be immediately corrected. You will not be able to defend a trip/fall case, simply by claiming you highlighted the 2” elevation in the walkway if it has been that way for an extended period of time. Legally, you are acknowledging the defect by highlighting it and thus compelled to fix it.
- **Leaves & Debris in Walkways:** Walkways must be maintained by ensuring that they are free of all leaf accumulation, sand, mud and other debris.
- **Snow & Ice – Parking Lots & Walkways:** For parks facing snow and ice, note that it is your responsibility to keep employee parking lots and entrances completely free and clear of all snow and ice. Where there is guest traffic, you have a legal obligation to keep all walking areas completely free of ice and snow
- **Traps for the Unwary:** There are endless possibilities for planting “traps” that people can trip on, because they fail to visually jump-out at people. In general, nothing should exist in your facility without being visually obvious to patrons. Any raised concrete, for example, should be edged in a bright paint color.



Every team member must constantly be on the lookout for slip, trip and fall hazards around your facility and be prepared to act proactively to prevent incidents from occurring.

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