

# Slip & Fall Accidents in the WORKPLACE

- Over 540,000 slip-fall injuries, requiring hospital care, occur in North America each year.
- Slip-fall accidents account for 30% of all reported injuries.
- Slip and falls account for over 20,000 fatalities per year in North America – i.e. 55 persons per day. It is the second leading cause of accidental death and disability after automobile accidents. Slip and falls kill more workers than all other combined forms of workplace accidents. The Bureau of Labor Statistics
- An estimated 300,000 disabling injuries occur each year in the American work force, resulting in 1,400 worker deaths. – The Bureau of Labor
- Statistics
- There are estimated to be 104 million lost workdays per year relating to slip and fall – i.e. 65% of all lost man-hours. That's over 4000 lifetimes. – The
- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- There are social burdens related to this problem, including Worker's
- Compensation claims – i.e. 40% of all accident claims paid out. Worker's
- Compensation and Liability Insurance Rates are increasing on the average of
- 30% per year. – The Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Falls and slips were the second most costly type of worker's compensation claim, averaging \$20,228 in 2002–2003.- National Safety Council, Injury
- Facts 2005–2006
- Floor and ground surfaces were the cause of 18% of occupational injuries in
- 2006. – U.S. Department of Labor
- The median days away from work due to falls was 9 days and 7 days for slips and trips without falling. –U.S. Department of Labor
- In 2002 and 2003 the average medical and indemnity direct cost for all Workers compensation claims was \$17,787 with common slip-and-fall accidents carrying a direct cost of \$20,228. Add to that indirect cost, such as increased insurance premiums; damaged equipment and/or facilities; hiring, training or retaining; and loss of production and quality, which are often 3 to 7 times direct cost, and that \$20,000 slip-and-fall accident could wind up

costing business \$80,000/\$120,000 or more if the employee takes the matter to court or Workers compensation premiums go up. – National Council on Compensation Insurance – Detailed claim information 2004.

## Slip & Fall Accidents in the HOME

66% of injury cases for people 65 years or older were a result of a fall and over 75% of slip-fall deaths occur to people 65 years of age or older.

One in three serious bone breaks for seniors result in death, within one year of the accident.

In the home, the bathroom and kitchen account for a staggering number of slip and fall injuries, making the total expense resulting from slip trip and fall accident. injuries an 36 billion dollar a year problem in North America, or over a \$100 million per day problem.

- For persons aged 65 and older, falls were the leading cause of death resulting from an injury. – National Safety Council, Injury Facts 2005–2006
- For persons aged 75 and older, the mortality rate from falls was nearly six times as high. – National Safety Council, Injury Facts 2005–2006
- Falls are also the leading cause of nonfatal injuries among the elderly. – National Safety Council, Injury Facts 2005–2006
- In 2000, direct medical costs totalled \$179 million for fatal falls and \$19 billion for nonfatal fall injuries.- Steven JA, Corso PS, Finkelstein EA, Miller
- TR “The Costs of Fatal and Nonfatal Falls Among Older Adults”, Injury Prevention 2006; 12:290–5

There you have it, that’s what our best experts are telling us, but few of us are listening.

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