



Bulletin Date:	Monday, January 07, 2019
Bulleting Number:	17
Originator:	Executive Director: Physical Plant
Reference:	Incident Prevention

While making rounds in a building, the employee lost balance on a stairway, resulting in a fall and injuring the lower body.

Root Cause: Rushing with eyes not on the path of travel and not using the handrails to maintain balance.

Safety Moment: Stairs are a hazard encountered frequently in our daily lives. As harmless as they may seem, stairways present many opportunities for people to injure themselves. Don't let yourself get distracted and always use the handrail. The concept of the handrail is basic, if you slip, trip or begin to fall, the handrail can break your fall and save you from injury.

During the containment and clean-up of a fluid spill, the employee was returning to the work vehicle and slipped, striking their head on the sidewalk.

Root Cause: Slippery substance on bottom of footwear (possible from the spilled fluid); weather condition of light snowfall created unpredictable walking surface; and rushing to complete tasks during non-regular work schedule.

Safety Moment: Check footwear traction when working around slippery surfaces and material. Carefully test the path of travel especially on sloped or wet surfaces.

Repetitive motion activities of the employee over a period of time resulted in injury to wrists.

Root Cause: Repetitive motion activities over time.

Safety Moment: Consider ergonomic practices to minimize body trauma. Ensure workstation is set up and work practices include keeping wrists and other body parts in a neutral position. Take frequent micro-breaks and stretch to increase circulation and maintain range of motion.

An employee collecting water samples was exposed to a microscopic parasite, resulting in illness.

Root Cause: Contact with contaminated wastewater.

Safety Moment: If in doubt, ask, get help and use PPE to prevent contact when work is suspect of unknown hazardous substances. Follow safe hygiene practice; frequently wash hands; protect street clothing and apply a sanitizer where appropriate.

During the course of travel on foot an employee slipped on an icy surface injuring a knee.

Root Cause: Weather conditions left walking surface ice covered and unpredictable.

Safety Moment: Weather conditions can change walking surfaces quickly. Pick a path of travel that can be easily checked for things that can "slip us up." Consider proper footwear and traction devices as conditions suggest.