



# SafetyAlert

We're Serious About Safety

## Preventing Slips & Falls



As we endure another New England winter, Beacon Mutual urges all employers to be proactive in preventing harmful winter slip-and-fall accidents. With nearly two-thirds of slip-and-fall incidences occurring on snow/ice and wet surfaces, it is imperative to “winterize” your facility before an accident occurs. Statistically, the average slip-and-fall claim results in an expense of over \$7,500.

### To help you prevent winter-related injuries, and control your workers' compensation costs, Beacon Mutual recommends the following:

Institute a formal “winterization” program to ensure that you are well prepared to offer the safest possible environment for your employees.

Assign a maintenance staff member or other employee to be responsible for the overall coordination and monitoring of your winterization program - additional employees can be assigned to supervise specific areas within your facility such as parking lots, or entrances.

Educate all employees as to the danger of slip-and-fall hazards. Provide information and/or instruction on preventing slip-and-fall accidents, such as how to be more aware of “black-ice” conditions and utilizing proper footwear.

Prepare to adjust or modify operational procedures that may expose employees to seasonal hazards. For example, employees who regularly enter and exit the building during icy conditions should be curtailed from carrying large loads.

Encourage all employees to report slip-and-fall conditions immediately to their supervisor. This includes the interior and exterior conditions as well as high traffic areas around the perimeter of the property. For example, a public sidewalk or bus stop.

### Winterization Checklist

- All snow and ice is removed BEFORE employees arrive for their work shifts.
- An inventory of snow/ice removal supplies such as shovels and ice melt is maintained and managed.
- All interior traffic areas are monitored for potential slip/fall conditions particularly during high transitional periods such as shift changes and lunch breaks.
- Liberal use of mats and/or caution signage in areas observed to be wet or potentially slippery.
- All exterior public areas are monitored for potential icing conditions throughout the day including parking lots, sidewalks, entrances and stairs. Special attention should be given to areas receiving little sunlight.
- Liberal use of snow melting agents is used on exterior traffic areas. Ample supply is available to retreat as needed.
- Employees are trained in the dangers of slip/fall hazards and are encouraged to use appropriate footwear.
- All employees are encouraged to report ANY slip/fall hazards they may observe throughout the day.

**Most slip/fall injuries are preventable. Encourage employees to be alert and report hazardous conditions. Take the necessary precautions and prevent a very costly injury this winter season.**



Beacon Mutual offers a variety of training opportunities for employees, supervisors and managers. Please check our seminar schedule for more information.  
[www.beaconmutual.com](http://www.beaconmutual.com)

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