



# DOAS Loss Control Bulletin

May 2019

## Topic of the Month... Falls, Slip, Trips in the Office

Falls, Slips, Trips made up 23% of the workers' compensation injuries so far in Fiscal Year 2019. 50% of these injuries are falls from the same level? They have already cost the State of Georgia over \$3 million with Total Payout to be over \$12,000,000 before they are all closed. Many of people believe that we can't prevent Falls, Slips, Trips injuries, it is part of the business. Is it part of your business to throw away \$12 million a year in expected losses; year after year after year, not to mention the pain and suffering of our fellow employees?

**What is your plan to deal with this exposure?** Are we going to do the same thing and hope it gets better? Have you looked at departments with the higher incidence of falls and determined why? Has your agency conducted Falls, Slips, Trips awareness or prevention training? DOAS has developed an on-line training that is available on the free DOAS and Safety National Insurance Learning Management System or at the DOAS Web site: <http://doas.ga.gov/risk-management/risk-management-education-and-training/preventing-falls-slips-and-trips-training>

Personal awareness is hard to control, but are we setting the example? Do we really have to answer that email or text while we are walking across a busy street? Do you have a Falls, Slips, Trips prevention plan? Has your location conducted a audit of your facility for potential fall hazards? Such things as:

- Are floor level changes guarded? One of the most over looked elevation changes are loading docks. Are removable guard rails in place? Especially as in the photo the dock is near an emergency exit.
- Changes in elevation: Are they marked? Are you warned of the elevation changes?
- Ladders, are they inspected annually? Worn parts replaced? Taken out of service when broken.
- Unmarked elevation changes: Have they been identified? Plans for improvement?
- Mats and rugs: Are they in place?
- Rainy days: Are door mats checked for saturation? Replaced or Wet vacuumed to remove excess water? Consistent response in all buildings?
- Drainage problems: Identified on rainy days? Are down spouts discharging onto walkways? Plan/work orders in to address problems? Slip and fall inspections on rainy days to Identify problems?
- Lighting: Are areas properly lit? Are light bulbs replaced as needed?
- Are walkways free of obstacles? (No cords, boxes, trash, hoses, carts)



What is your agency's procedure for reporting issues? Each agency has its own exposures to address. Doing nothing allows the injuries to continue. Look (For the Hazards), Evaluate (What can be done.), Correct or at least Warn people to reduce exposure.

**Thanks for your time. Let's work together to make Georgia a safer place to work.**

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