

LESSONS LEARNED FROM LOSSES

MARCH 2018 – OFFICE SAFETY



- Safety in the office environment should not be automatic. It can be easy to feel relaxed in a comfortable, well-lit, air-conditioned and carpeted classroom or office.
- Some of the worst injuries we see occur indoors in a controlled environment.
- Slip, trip and fall accidents and their subsequent injuries are the most common and costly accidents seen amongst office workers. Common hazards of slip, trip and fall accidents include wet floors, improper footwear, boxes, purses, open drawers and electrical and computer cords.
- The ergonomics of these employees must also be considered to prevent discomfort and improve productivity.
- Talk to staff frequently about your expectations and their concerns for maintaining a safe workplace.
- Inspect areas for problems, report them, fix them and document these efforts.

Example 1: Employee was sitting on the edge of a chair when the wheels hit a carpet edge causing the employee to fall out of the chair and cause back injuries and a knee strain. Physical therapy and other medical treatment amounted to over \$31,000 paid out on this claim

Example 2: Employee tripped over computer cord walking in office causing her to fall forward and sustain shoulder, back and knee injuries. Extensive medical treatment and an award and the total amount paid out on the claim was \$207,000

Example 3: During a rainy day an employee slipped on water in a hallway that was brought in on the shoes of others. The employee suffered a rotator cuff tear and had extensive physical therapy and injections and the total paid out on the claim was \$65,000