

# LESSONS LEARNED FROM LOSSES

## MARCH 2022 – OFFICE SAFETY



- 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, garbage cans, purses, open drawers and electrical and computer cords.
- 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 tripped over equipment on the floor and fell. The employee underwent hand surgery and physical therapy after conservative treatment failed. This claim is over \$103,000 with wage replacement and the likely award to settled the claim petition.

Example 2: Employee was leaning on a desk and it fell over causing employee to fall and suffer disc herniations. A 3 level laminectomy was completed and a spinal cord stimulator inserted as well. Total cost on this claim is currently \$416,000 and needless to say, this employee will likely suffer pain and discomfort for the rest of their life.