

# SAFETY BULLETIN

## WINTER SLIP & FALL PREVENTION

Slips and falls due to wintery conditions account for millions of dollars in losses each year. A properly planned and executed severe weather plan is critical for keeping your employees and/or guests safe in the winter months.

### EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Create an Emergency Response Team that will monitor weather conditions and update upper management about any weather related concerns. They should immediately report storm warnings, especially when conditions become potentially dangerous.

### BUILDING INSPECTIONS

Take time to inspect & repair any issues in your building, such as:

- ▶ Handrails or banisters to prevent falls and serious injuries.
- ▶ Damaged gutters to prevent water from pooling and turning to ice on walkways and stairs.
- ▶ Clear leaf buildup and other debris from all drain areas.
- ▶ Make sure exterior lighting is working and shedding enough light for employees to see the ground they are walking on and avoid any hazards.

### SNOW & ICE REMOVAL

If needed, contract with a snow removal company to make sure drives, parking lots and walkways are cleared. Snow should be removed in a timely manner, not only for the safety of the employees, but also to allow emergency crews to gain easy access to the building should they be called. Don't forget to obtain certificates of insurance for any contractors hired.

Snow should also be cleared from fire hydrants and hose connections to keep them visible and easily accessible to firefighters.

Place buckets of salt or sand near building entrances so that it may be sprinkled as needed. Have water absorbent mats and "wet floor signs" readily available. Mats with curled up edges should be immediately replaced to avoid employees tripping on them.

*For more information, please contact your local Risk Management Consultant at [800.257.1900](tel:800.257.1900) or [riskmanagement@amerisure.com](mailto:riskmanagement@amerisure.com)*

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