

In the Spotlight

Recipients of this year's Safety Award will be announced shortly. These recipients will be invited to attend the October PCPA Trust Board meeting to receive their award!

FRIENDLY REMINDER

Now's the time to have your Safety Committee members receive their annual training. If you wait and lose a member before they are certified, you will need to remove that person from all written documentation unless you can get them trained. This could throw off your Committee's quorum or the employer / employee representative balance.



Wolverine Loss Control continues to offer multiple webinar-based training sessions. Your members can attend individually as their time allows, or together as an entire Committee.

Please make sure to keep track of the annual training. Either instructor-signed certificates of participation or attendance sheets with the instructor's signature are adequate to document training. All members MUST receive certification training!

April 2, 2019 is the earliest you can renew your 5% credit and June 16, 2019 is the last day to submit your renewal application.

SLIP SLIDIN' AWAY...

Since 2013, there has been 1,224 slips, trips, and falls, costing the Trust \$6,349,877 in paid injuries. That's an average of \$5,188 per claim. Most of these accidents are completely preventable!

Where Do They Occur?

Outdoors

- Parking Lots
- Sidewalks
- Entrances
- Stairs
- Loading Docks
- In/Out Vehicles
- Ladders

Indoors

- Stairs
- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Near Drinking Fountains
- Near Entrances



Common causes include: wet or oily surfaces, weather hazards (rain, snow, or ice), loose or wrinkled rugs/mats, poorly lit areas, uneven surfaces, cables & cords, and improper ladder use.

Solutions: Have your Safety Committee perform walk-through inspections to look for any of the hazards mentioned above. Immediate corrective actions should be taken to prevent a slip, trip, or fall.

Provide ladder safety training for any employee required to utilize ladders. All ladders should be inspected and discarded or repaired if a defect is found. Nothing should ever be used as a substitute for a ladder or stepladder (chairs, tables, boxes, etc.).

Have your maintenance department perform a quarterly check on stairwell lighting and outdoor lighting. Proper illumination should be installed in dark areas where staff members are required to travel.

Develop a footwear policy that prohibits open-toe shoes, high-heels, or flip-flops. Maintenance workers should be required to wear steel tip or other comparable boots.

During inclement weather, issue an advisory to staff to be careful when exiting their vehicles and walking to the building. Remind them to be mindful of black ice. All employees should be responsible for immediately reporting icy / slippery conditions. A salt/sand mixture should be available at every entrance.

Potholes in parking lots and uneven curbs should be immediately repaired. Sidewalks with height differentials should be repaired to prevent trip hazards.

"CAUTION – WET FLOOR" signs should be posted at every entrance during inclement weather or after wet mopping the floor.

To learn more, join us on our webinar on how to prevent slips, trips, and falls on October 2nd at 10 AM. <https://bbinslv.globalmeet.com/brownbrownwebinar>.



FALL DRIVING TIPS

- Before bad weather sets in, have your vehicles sent for routine maintenance. Be sure to check your tires, lights, and fluids!
- Watch for children at bus stops! You **MUST** stop when the bus activates its red flashing lights and has its “stop” arm extended. You must stop at least 20 feet from the bus. Do not move your vehicle until the “stop” arm is retracted and the red lights are no longer flashing.
- Wet pavements and leaves make a slippery combination. It takes much longer to stop in these conditions. Leave adequate space while following behind a vehicle. Use the 3 second rule, but add a second or two.
- When your windshield wipers are on, your headlights should be on. Remember, just because its daylight doesn't mean others can easily see your vehicle.
- Watch out for black ice. This can occur after a freeze/thaw situation. Shady spots are often riddled with spots of black ice. Slow down in these areas!
- Sunset can cause sun glare for drivers. Wear sunglasses and use your vehicle's sun visor. If you have trouble seeing due to sun glare, slow down and increase the following distance. Let the white fog line at the side of the road guide you.

LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN.

Prevention Week is October 7 – 13, 2018

LOOK for places fire could start. Take a good look around your workplace and home. Identify potential fire hazards and address them immediately. Safety Committees can be helpful in identifying fire hazards and brainstorming corrective actions to eliminate the possibility of a fire.



LISTEN for the sound of the smoke / fire alarm. You could only have minutes to escape safely once the alarm sounds. Go to your outside safe meeting place (which should be a safe distance from the building) and stay there until fire rescue tell you it's okay to re-enter the building.



LEARN at least two ways out of every room. Make sure emergency exits and hallways are clear of any obstructions. Emergency exits must be unlocked and not blocked. Download the Fire Prevention Week flyer by visiting:



https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fpw_2018_handout.pdf

FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR FALL & WINTER



Fall and winter keep people indoors where it's cozy and warm. Space heaters, candles, decorative lights, baseboard heaters, and furnaces can present a fire safety hazard. To eliminate the possibility of fire, keep these tips in mind:

- Have all furnaces serviced for routine maintenance before cold weather sets in. A licensed and experienced technician should conduct a thorough inspection.
- Space heaters can warm up a room quickly, but are also a leading cause of fires. Space heaters should be prohibited for both staff and consumers.
- Move all combustibles away from sources of heat, such as baseboard heaters. Curtains should be hemmed at least a foot away from the heater. Furniture and beds should not be situated against heaters.
- While candles create an inviting and calming atmosphere, they can also be very dangerous. Instead of using an open-flamed candle, switch them out for the new battery operated candles. Many of them look realistic!
- Strings of decorative lights can cause a fire if you connect too many together. So how many is too many? Typically, UL listed lights state a maximum of 210 watts can be connected using a 22 gauge wire or a maximum of 420 watts can be connected using a 20 gauge wire. Always read and comply with the manufacturer's instructions on the box.



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