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# Don't Let Your Business slip



Steve Davis  
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- ▶ **Issues:** Slips and falls affect more than your finances. They impact the quality of those under your care - and, may also may determine your public and client reputation.
  - ▶ Author Russell J Kendzior: “We are living in a slip-and-fall epidemic.”
- ▶ In one year, 21,200 Americans died as a result of a fall. (National Safety Council, 2003 ed.)
  - ▶ Each year that number rises 1.5 to 2% due to rising population.
  - ▶ (For 2013- that number is approximately 29,500).
- ▶ The **leading** cause of workers’ compensation claims -- and the leading cause of occupational injury for people aged 15 to 24 years.
  - ▶ In 2013, 296,130 of the 1,162,210 nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses reported, were associated with slips and falls.
- ▶ Compensation and medical costs associated with employee slip-and-fall accidents is approximately \$70 **billion**, annually, (National Safety Council, 2003 ed.).

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- ▶ Here are the results of some of the court cases related to slips and falls
  - ▶ Court case awards trucker \$15 million from Walmart after slipped and falling on wet slippery floor while making a delivery to their store.
  - ▶ Court awards woman business owner \$12.2 million after she slipped and fell on wet slippery floor while stopping at a quick stop for a newspaper.
  - ▶ Man wins \$1.78 million in suit against motel after falling on a wet slippery exterior concrete floor.

\* Common wording in every lost court case is slippery floor caused by wetness, moisture on solid floors! Second reason for the lost cases, (breach of duty to protect), is due to failure to prevent slips and falls by the organization who was sued by the plaintiffs.

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- ▶ The risks your institution may face: For example, on a college campus, 1200 students live in one dormitory with four, four-story stairwells and only a housekeeping elevator.
  - ▶ For one day= 192,000 stair steps taken. (For our example, each student, one trip down and one trip up per day).
  - ▶ For one week= 960,000, stair steps taken.
  - ▶ For one semester= 16 million stair steps taken.
  - ▶ For two semesters = 32 million stair steps taken.
  - ▶ Note: This is *only* for the students. This is not for housekeeping, family members, staff, faculty, or friends from other dormitories.
- ▶ Over two semesters, if, and this is if you are 99 percent safe, that leaves one percent, or 320,000 stair steps that might generate a slip, trip and/or fall.
- ▶ *What if we included other variables, such as a spilled drink once a week, or an occasional rain storm and students had wet shoes?*



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## ▶ Solutions (How we can help you)

- ▶ Our total focus: Decrease risk for slips, trips and fall... and, your liability for these
  - ▶ Based on current minimum standards of safety as set by ANSI, NFSI, and recommended by ADA and OSHA.
    - ▶ (OSHA does not make standards).
- ▶ Collaborate with you to create a safer work/living environment for your clients, employees and/or students
- ▶ **Help to avoid increases in workers compensation costs or losing liability related insurance coverage**
  - ▶ Fake falls and lawsuits- it's particularly hard to fake a fall when there is increased traction on the ground!
- ▶ All surfaces and work are warrantied for **two years**

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- ▶ Our solutions:
  - ▶ Affordable (especially when compared in terms of any litigation costs or renovations)
  - ▶ Can be accomplished in a scheduled, *on time, on budget* manner without disruption to business
  - ▶ Comply with American Disabilities Act
  - ▶ Meet or exceed ANSI Standards (B101.1 and B101.3)
  - ▶ Provide for Peace of Mind

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## ▶ How we work

- ▶ Test floor surfaces for coefficient of friction
- ▶ Clean and degrease floors
- ▶ Test flooring for pre-treatment coefficient of friction, (COF) dry and wet results.
- ▶ Apply treatment, to one small area first to determine appropriate treatment time, then to whole selected area
- ▶ Following treatment time, apply neutralizer
- ▶ Re-clean floors to ensure removal of all treatment and neutralizer materials
- ▶ Dry floor as completely as possible
- ▶ Retest COF dry and wet to assess results. (Dry and wet COF results are provided to you in a written report following treatment of selected area).
- ▶ Advise about the correct maintenance of floors to maximize COF
- ▶ As further follow-up, at one month, three months and six months, will audit floors by testing and evaluating treatment conditions.

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- ▶ Institution on lawsuits- or case where organization took on slippery floor prevention! (Dated November 2010, Relatively new)
  - ▶ Booher vs Hampton Inn, Booher's attorney's lost the case due to fact the Hampton Inn had recently began working on walking surface- slip and fall prevention and bathtub- slip and fall prevention prior to the Booher's family member fall injury. Therefore there was no breach of duty to protect their hotel's clients from slip and fall incidents/accidents and the defendants, Hampton Inn, won the case.

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▶ Thank you!

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