



Florida  
Community Colleges  
Risk Management  
Consortium

# Campus Safety

Issue No. 2  
2005

Visit your college's Risk Management, Human Resources or Safety Offices for assistance. Contact the Florida Community Colleges Risk Management Consortium for further information.

Piper Walton  
Loss Prevention Manager, FCCRMC  
5700 SW 34th Street, Suite 1205  
Gainesville, FL 32608  
352.955.2190, ext. 4  
Suncom: 625.2190, ext. 4  
Fax 352.955.2069 • [wpwalton@fccrhc.com](mailto:wpwalton@fccrhc.com)

Chauncey Fagler  
Associate Director, FCCRMC  
5700 SW 34th Street, Suite 1205  
Gainesville, FL 32608  
352.955.2190, ext. 5  
Suncom: 625.2190, ext. 5  
Fax 352.955.2069 • [cfagler@fccrhc.com](mailto:cfagler@fccrhc.com)



Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

James D. Smith

Director, Risk Control Services

Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.—Miami  
8200 Northwest 41st Street, Suite 200  
Miami, FL 33166

305.639.3129 • Fax 305.592.4049

Cell 561.310.1747 • [jim\\_smith-fl@ajg.com](mailto:jim_smith-fl@ajg.com)

The information contained in this newsletter was obtained from sources that are authentic and reliable. Florida Community Colleges Risk Management Consortium and Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. make no guarantee of results, and assumes no liability in connection with either the information herein contained, or the safety suggestions herein made. Moreover, it cannot be assumed that every acceptable safety procedure is contained herein, or that abnormal or unusual circumstances may not warrant or require further or additional procedures.

p:\graph\unit\Boca Raton\News\Campus Safety\2005-No.2.indd

## Slip, Trip and Fall: A leading cause of faculty injuries

One of the leading causes of on-the-job injuries to teachers, teacher aides, and other faculty and staff is slip, trip and falls. Approximately 20 to 30 percent of on-the-job injuries are from slip, trip and falls on the same level (floor or ground, not stairs). These types of incidents are painful for the staff member involved, as well as costly to the college budget. Our colleges are self-insured to a specific claim dollar amount. Every dollar spent on an injury is a dollar taken from the college's operating budget and ultimately the classroom. Therefore, it is important that we prevent needless pain and suffering while eliminating the waste of college funds. We ask that each faculty member read this safety bulletin in an effort to prevent slip, trip and fall accidents.

Accident prevention begins with understanding the causes of slip, trip and falls. **Primary causes of slip, trip and falls on the same level are:**

- Slipping on foreign debris that interferes with the shoe traction on the floor. This can result from a foreign substance on the floor, the bottom of the shoe or both. (Most slip accidents are caused by moisture on the floor.)

- Tripping over floor elevation changes that are not detected. (Sidewalk cracks or surface variances are common trip problems.)

- Tripping over obstructions in the walkway, desk/chair or working area. (Electric cords and computer cables are two of the most commonly cited trip obstructions.)

Now that you are aware of the primary causes of slip, trip and falls on the same level, you can take action to minimize your chances of being an injury victim.

*The following items are tips you can use to prevent slips:*

- Wear proper slip-resistant footwear appropriate for the job.
- Clean up spills right away.
- Draw attention to spills, if they cannot be cleaned immediately.
- During rainy days, watch for slippery conditions at doors and in hallways.
- Where water is present, watch for wet conditions on the floor (restrooms, lounge, cafeteria).
- When conditions are unavoidable, change your pace to allow for a shorter stride. Walk with your feet pointed slightly outward to broaden your base. Contact the walking surface with the entire shoe sole (flat).



**If you spill it, clean it up—immediately.**

The following items are tips you can use to prevent trip and falls from elevation changes:

- Report sidewalks, ramps and entrance elevation changes that can cause trips.

*continued on back*

*Cost-Cutting Solutions to Risk Management Problems*

# Slip, Trip and Fall: A leading cause of faculty injuries

*continued from front*

- Request that surface elevation changes in walkway paths be removed, barricaded or marked.
- Avoid these areas until the conditions have been repaired or removed.
- Notify coworkers of hazardous conditions.
- Continually communicate these conditions to all employees to keep the awareness level high until corrective measures can be implemented.

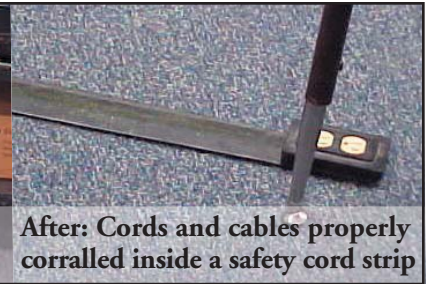
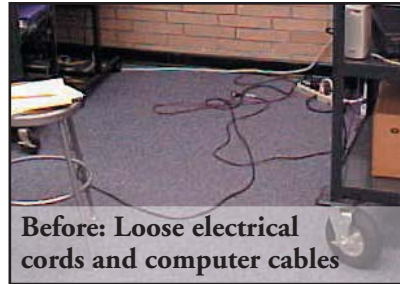
*The following items are tips you can use to prevent trip and falls from obstructions in the walkway:*

- Keep electric cords, hoses and other items out of walkway paths of travel.
- In the classroom, tape down cords used for audiovisual equipment or use cord protectors to cover the cords.
- Remove the trip hazard, e.g., fix the curled carpet; remove cables or equipment.
- Report conditions that are, or could become trip hazards.

- Watch for edges of furniture that project into walkway paths.
- Keep computer cords underneath the desk and out of the way by using computer trays or tying cables together and placing them out of the reach of legs and feet.

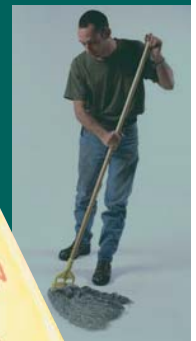
*Report slip, trip and fall hazards immediately.*

- Use abrasive strips to increase traction on steps and ramps.
- Use proper mats/runners in wet or soiled locations to improve the surface conditions.
- Post signs to warn of wet areas during rainy days or areas where a spill has occurred.
- Use high-visibility paint to mark elevation changes.
- By properly locating electrical outlets, cords are more easily kept out of pathways.



## Good housekeeping prevents slips

- Clean up liquids.
- Sweep up dust, sand and debris.
- Repair leaks.
- Use visual warning signs.
- Install barriers to divert/retain spills.
- Utilize floor mats at entrances.
- Observe areas where water is present or used (restrooms, front entrance, cafeteria).
- Always proceed with caution on stairs and stairway platforms.



## BEWARE of these common campus trip hazards:

- Obstructions in the walkway (e.g., door stops, walking surface elevation changes)
- Stairs
- Audiovisual and electrical cords
- Telephone cords
- Computer cables underneath the desk or in the walkway
- Unmarked curbs that vary in height
- Holes in the ground (e.g., sprinkler covers, utilities, potholes)
- Loose gravel on walkways and parking lots
- Holes in parking lots
- Supplies and equipment in walkways
- Housekeeping and clutter in storage areas
- Walking up and down stairs while attention is diverted (e.g., reading, talking)
- Brooms, mops, shovels and rakes
- Carpet that doesn't lay flat
- Mats having curled edges