

# Risk Alert



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## Preventing Injuries to Maintenance Employees

Every year, Church Mutual customers report more than 4,000 injuries to their employees. One occupation needing specific risk management attention is maintenance employees.

Employees in this category include janitorial-type jobs, facility workers and custodians—but not construction. Past claims provide insight into key safety issues to help prevent similar injuries. Use the following guidelines to help evaluate, develop and implement good risk management practices and procedures for maintenance employees:

Most frequent and costly injuries to maintenance employees	% Total Claims	% Total Cost
Slips, Trips and Falls	29.8%	48.4%
Strains	30.2%	37.1%
Struck by/Collision With	17.1%	4.4%

Based on 2010 - 2011 workers' compensation claims for religious organizations

### Slips, Trips and Falls on Level Surfaces

- Maintain clean working areas and walking surfaces to help eliminate slip-and-fall exposures.
- Train employees on the proper use of mops and other cleaning equipment used to maintain clean floors.
- Make wearing slip-resistant footwear a policy for all staff.
- Conduct routine surveys of parking lots, sidewalks and steps to identify tripping hazards.

### Slips, Trips and Falls on Stairs or Steps

- Check stairwells. Provide smooth, continuous handrails and slip-resistant stair surfaces.
- Maintain adequate lighting on steps, ramps and at entrance areas.
- Promote safe handling of materials. Do not carry objects that are too large to see around.
- Place "Wet Floor" signs where slip-and-fall hazards exist.

### Lifting Strains

- Conduct employee safety training sessions that address back injury causes and controls.
- Use material-handling equipment, such as carts, to move chairs, risers or bleachers.
- Establish procedures to safely fold and move chairs and tables.
- Provide motorized snow removal equipment to help reduce the need for manual shoveling.

### Struck by or Collision With Objects

- Establish procedures for inspecting and maintaining equipment.
- Maintain clutter-free storage rooms. Limit storage of combustible materials.
- Provide an adequate level of lighting within the building, along exterior sidewalks and in parking areas.
- Mark or pad obstructions that cannot be removed to help reduce the possibility of direct contact or injury if contact occurs.

Gain quick access to safety materials at [www.churchmutual.com](http://www.churchmutual.com). Order, download or print any of Church Mutual's safety materials at no cost.