



Our last newsletter focused on the costs and prevention of slip, trip, and fall injuries. An astounding 25,000 injuries per day are attributed to slips, trips, and falls, making them the most common work-related injury in the US. Slips, trips, and falls also account for 65% of all lost days among workers in the country and account for approximately \$70 billion in annual compensation & medical costs (National Safety Council Injury Facts). Schools within our risk management group follow this trend. Here is a closer look:

***All Schools in Risk Management Group (01/01/2012 to 07/14/2014)***

Total Workers Comp Dollar Losses	\$3,230, 314.94	100%
Slip, Trip & Fall Costs	\$1,354,939.13	42%
Total No. of Losses	818	100%
No. of Slips, Trips & Falls	286	35%

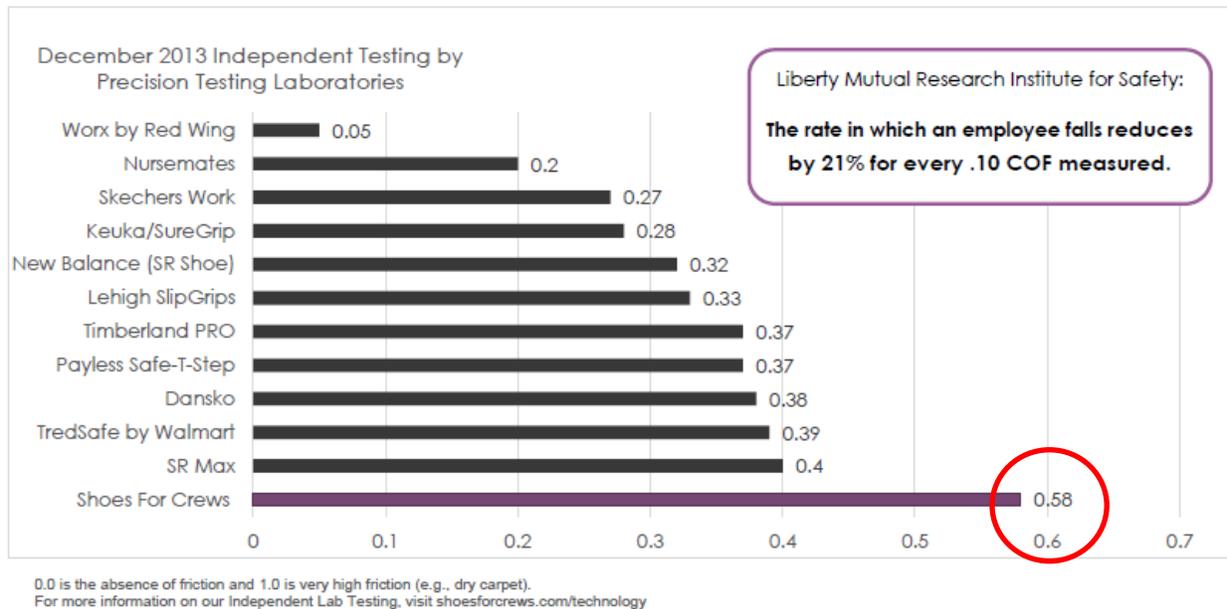
Over 40% of all injury costs and over a third of all injuries to school employees can be attributed to slips, trips, and falls. Think most of these occurred on snow or ice? They didn't! Slips and falls on snow and ice accounted for only 2.1% of total injuries and 2.2% of the total cost of injuries. Slips, trips, and falls, however, cost 41% more than the next leading injury type, lifting-related claims, and they occurred at double the rate of lifting-related claims.

Our last newsletter focused on where slip, trip, and fall injuries occur, including transition areas such as doorways, wet areas, stairs, and ladders. It also addressed how to prevent this type of injury by using stepstools and "Quik Kiks" instead of standing on desks and chairs, and reiterated the importance of maintaining three points of contact on ladders.

Extended matting at doorways is another critical step toward reducing slips and falls. Entrance matting should cover 15 to 18 feet at entrances, or long enough to accommodate 5-6 footsteps of the average adult stride. In addition to controlling slip and falls, matting also reduces the tracking of outside dirt into the facility by 80-90%. Roughly 30% of dirt tracked into buildings is trapped in the first 3 feet of a typical mat, while 85% of the dirt is trapped within a 15-foot length of typical matting (Cleaning & Maintenance Management). The International Sanitary Supply Association estimates that the cost of removing a single pound of dirt from a modern building exceeds \$600.

Wearing good quality slip-resistant footwear is another crucial step in reducing slips and falls. Any shoe manufacturer can advertise their shoes as “slip resistant”, but what is “slip resistance” and is there a recommended slip-resistant shoe available? The answer is yes!

The ISESC Risk Management Group has endorsed Shoes for Crews ([shoesforcrews.com](http://shoesforcrews.com)) as our preferred vendor. Shoes for Crews has designed and patented their own line of slip-resistant footwear. Slip-resistant footwear is their “sole” line of business (ouch, a bad pun). Independent tests indicate the coefficient of friction of their footwear, or the ratio of the force that maintains contact between an object and a surface, is twice as high as others on the market. Their shoes also hold up under heavy use, an important consideration given that custodial personnel indicated that many slip-resistant shoes purchased from local department stores lasted only two to three months.



[https://www.shoesforcrews.com/sfc3/index.cfm?changeWebsite=US\\_en&route=inserts.QA/madeof\\_content&feedbackinkId=17](https://www.shoesforcrews.com/sfc3/index.cfm?changeWebsite=US_en&route=inserts.QA/madeof_content&feedbackinkId=17)

Numerous organizations have drastically reduced slip and fall injuries by requiring or encouraging personnel to wear slip-resistant footwear. Preventing one moderate to severe slip and fall injury would provide a significant return on investment.

Some schools are implementing a corporate shoe program. Other schools are recommending that staff purchase slip-resistant footwear through Shoes for Crews. Each pair shoes come with a return label and shoes may be exchanged free of charge for any reason within 60 days. They also carry a wide selection, from dress shoes to tennis shoes to steel-toed work boots, all with their patented slip-resistant sole.



Severe, disabling injuries have resulted from slips, trips, and falls among school employees. Along with matting and the use of appropriate ladders and stools, purchasing the right shoes is a key component to preventing them.

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