

Protecting Our Parishes, Missions, and Schools

Prevent Accidents and Injuries by Recognizing Potential Hazards

To assist our schools in preventing accidents and injuries to staff members, students, or visitors, it is important to create an organizational culture where every employee is on the **lookout** for potential hazardous conditions or practices that may lead to accidents.

It is important that we notice these hazards and report or assist in correcting the condition or practice. Please take a moment to look at the top conditions or practices that cause the majority of accidents/injuries on our school campus.

Slips and falls

Slips and falls are one of the leading causes of employee injuries. Water on the front entrance floor, in the hallway near the water fountains, in the restroom, and on the floor in the cafeteria are great examples of where slips/falls occur.

Tripping

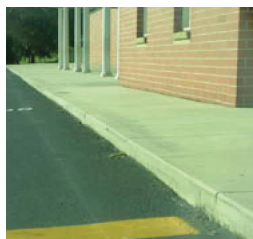
Tripping on same-level surfaces result in many injuries. Trippings (tripping over objects or people) occur from extension cords in the walkway, sidewalk elevation changes/cracks, sidewalk curbs when carrying something to/from parking lot, corner of desk/chair or boxes, as well as students and/or their backpacks or musical cases, in the aisles/hallways.



Watch for liquid on the floor. Clean up spills. Report conditions.



Be careful of uneven surfaces.



Watch for elevation changes between sidewalks and parking lots.

Falls from Standing on Chairs or Desks

Falls from standing on chairs or desks are common hazards that often result in serious employee injuries.

Lifting—Excessive Bending

Improper lifting or lowering of items by bending over at the waist instead of squatting and using the leg muscles oftentimes can lead to a back injury. Lifting/lowering boxes or school supplies, moving computers/equipment, carrying objects/lowering objects or bending over while sitting at the desk to pick something off the floor all can result in serious back injuries.

Lifting—Twisting

Twisting while lifting or lowering an object can lead to back pain. Sometimes merely twisting at the waist to respond to a student or laying something down can lead to a back injury. Often this injury can be prevented simply by moving your feet and stepping toward the path of travel.

Struck by a Student

Playing and/or supervising a sporting activity, or trying to break up a student-on-student altercation, all can lead to being struck by a student or athletic equipment. Watch for these student activities to avoid placing yourself in these predicaments.



Use a ladder to reach.



Use proper lifting techniques. Get help!



Get out of the chair and squat down to pick up object.