



## Helping to Prevent Slips and Falls

Many people are surprised to learn that slips and falls are the number one cause of insurance claims at community banks. Highly polished floors, varying floor surfaces, improper cleaning products, and rain or snow can all combine to create unsafe conditions for both customers and employees in and around the facility. Working to prevent slips and falls may help banks avoid financial losses such as paid claims, increased insurance premiums, and administrative time spent handling incident reporting. Additionally, injuries in a facility can create adverse publicity, which in turn could affect a bank's name and reputation. Ultimately, all of these issues may have a negative effect on the bottom line.

### Did You Know?

Did you know that:

- The National Safety Council reports that the leading cause of accidental death and injury in public buildings is slips and falls. For all public places, they are second only to motor vehicle accidents.
- Slips and falls are the leading cause of nonfatal accidental injuries. More than 12 million occur each year, requiring medical attention that includes 8 million emergency room visits.
- More than 17,000 fatalities occur from slip and fall accidents annually. For people over the age of 75, they are the leading cause of accidental death.
- Slips and falls are the leading cause of workplace injuries for employees, with the average injury costing over \$22,000.
- The Insurance Information Institute reports that the average cost of a premises liability claim decided by a jury is over \$600,000.

### Preventing Slips and Falls

There are many contributing factors to a slip and fall accident such as flooring, personal gait characteristics, footwear, and personal impairment. However, the National Floor Safety Institute shows that flooring surface is the cause of 50% of the slip and fall injuries. Luckily, floors are one of the contributing factors over which the bank has some control.

### Walkway Auditing

Preventing slips and falls begins with determining if the flooring surfaces have adequate traction under wet conditions. OneBeacon can apply a recognized auditing methodology to measure the floors' coefficient of friction and compare readings to nationally recognized standards. Cleaning protocols and surface treatments will also be audited and reviewed. Understanding these factors may help with an overall effort to ensure that flooring surfaces are safe and provide adequate traction for daily foot traffic. This data may also be used in claim defense efforts.

### About OneBeacon Financial Services

OneBeacon Financial Services offers property and casualty coverages for commercial banks, savings banks and savings and loan institutions, security broker-dealers, investment advisors, insurance companies and credit unions. Specialty coverage, including management liability, professional liability, cyber liability and financial institution bond, are additionally available for institutions with less than \$3 billion in assets.

### Contact Us

To learn more about how OneBeacon Financial Services can help you manage your unique risks, please contact Craig Collins, President, at [ccollins@onebeacon.com](mailto:ccollins@onebeacon.com) or 952.852.2434.

Learn more about OneBeacon Financial Services at [onebeaconfs.com](http://onebeaconfs.com).