



In-depth incident analysis key to major reduction in slips, trips and falls

Situation

A large health system with 12 acute care hospitals and over 26,000 employees was experiencing a rising injury rate due to slips, trips and falls. Seeking to reduce lost staff time and injury-related costs, the client created a task force to investigate the problem and sought our help to identify corrective measures and implementing necessary controls.

Solution

Our team analyzed accident reports to identify high-incident problem spots and created a facility map showing "hot," "medium," and "cold" zones. We conducted root cause analysis of hot zone incidents and identified the two most common causes: water or "wet" areas, and trip hazards in patient rooms and clinics. To reduce risk, multiple controls were established including:

- Employee PPE focused on footwear
- Use of slip resistant mats
- Creation of a spill response team, hotline and new staff procedure
- Upgraded drinking fountains
- Umbrella bags in entry areas
- Communication campaign
- Popup cones near extinguishers
- Cord ties at nursing stations
- Spill resistant containers

Improved Outcomes

- By the end of the test period, the average yearly number of slips, trips and falls had fallen by 44%.
- During the six months following the implementation of task force recommendations, slips, trips and falls had dropped 33%.
- In the year following implementation, the slip, trip and fall rate had decreased 47% compared to the average rate for the prior three years.