SLIP AND FALL PREVENTION TIP

At the October, 2002 meeting of the American Hotel & Lodging Association’s Loss Prevention Committee, Scott V. Oxman, Consultant INN Safe Performance reviewed a study on floor falls conducted by Russell J. Kendzior, Executive Director of the National Floor Safety Institute (www.nfsi.org), Bedford, Texas. Some highlights of that study include:

- “Wet floor signs” may not be your most effective line of defense. 65% of the time wet floor signs were displayed, the floors were not wet. It was found most pedestrians simply ignored the signs and in some cases actually moved them from where they were originally placed.
- Based upon more than ten years of experience, the use of appropriate flooring materials along with a high-traction floor maintenance regime will pay big dividends in slip-and-fall accident prevention.
- A missing link has been the ability to effectively monitor whether the floors, in fact, are safe. A tool to be considered is the Universal Walkway Tester. It is a first-of-its-kind auditing tool designed for property owners, safety professionals, and insurers who want to measure the relative traction of walkway surfaces easily and affordably. So significant is this advancement that several commercial floor covering manufacturers and commercial, floor polish manufacturers have signed on with the new NFSI test method and will be including the NFSI “certified” label on their products.
- Manufacturers who seek the certification can submit product samples to the NFSI Research Center located in Bedford, Texas. Each sample is tested with the UWT for its Wet Static Coefficient of Friction (SCOF). If the product meets a SCOF value of 0.6 or greater under wet conditions, it will be forwarded to the field testing phase. If not, the manufacturer will be contacted as to the sample’s failure. In the field test phase, the sample is exposed to real-world conditions for a period of 30 days and retested for performance. If, after field testing the product continues to meet a wet SCOF of 0.6, it will gain NFSI “Certification” status and be classified as “High Traction.” High traction products are therefore those that meet a higher standard of slip resistance, both in the lab and in the real world.

This is informational and is not an endorsement; but CHECK IT OUT!

REMEMBER:
At the end of April, remove the OSHA’s Form 300A Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses and make this a part of your OSHA files, to be retained for five years.

RETHINK the management decision in one organization to remove the security director from the property bonus program in behalf of budget controls. The only department head to be subjected to that down-grade and at a time when security is; or at least should be, one of senior management’s major concerns. Hey, guys, that is not the way one builds morale and loyalty during difficult times.

DISCLAIMER

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CONTINUE to review the web sites shared in the February 2003 LOSS PREVENTION MANAGEMENT BULLETIN to be current with emergency management and anti-terrorist strategies. Senior management, as well as the security management, should be involved in this exercise.

NOW IS THE TIME to establish a special committee on Terrorism, if you have not already done so, in addition to and as support to any safety, security, or executive committee functions on premises.

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