

## In-Home Care Risk Services Newsletter | Issue 6

### **Take Action. Get Traction. Protect your Employees and your Bottom Line!**

Winter brings with it many undesirable features – short days, cold temperatures and precipitation in the form of snow and ice.

Slip, trip and fall injuries are the second largest cause of workers' compensation claims in the United States. While many of these occur indoors, a significant portion happens outside on sidewalks, driveways, stairways and parking lots. The in-home care industry, with its itinerant workforce, has a greater exposure to winter conditions than other industries with a more sedentary employee base.

As your caregivers enter and depart client homes, they are often confronted with snow-covered or icy walkways and stairs where it is all too easy for them to lose their footing. Taking the client out for a routine outing, be it a medical visit, shopping errand or simply a walk around the block, dramatically increases your chances of an injury to your employee in wintry conditions.

The injuries from these outdoor slips, trips and falls can be devastating. It is not uncommon to see serious multiple fractures as well as instances of trauma to the head. These injuries will ultimately cost you and your business time and money.

Preventing these types of injuries with an itinerant workforce can be particularly difficult because you typically cannot control the walking surfaces that your caregivers are exposed to, but there are a number of simple and cost effective mitigating steps you can take.

#### **To List a Few**

We have listed some of these precautionary measures on our Risk Management and Loss Prevention website.

#### **Solutions**

- Preventing Slip/Fall injuries in Your Mobile Workforce

Visit our In-Home Care Risk Services Loss Control Resources page to view articles that provide further insight in dealing with Slip/Fall injuries.

- Sand Shaker Fall Prevention Campaign
- Ice Cleat Fall Prevention Campaign
- The Freeze/Thaw Cycle