



Senior Fall Prevention

Slip and fall accidents are a concern for people of all ages. Senior citizens, however, are at an increased risk for slip and falls. According to the Centers for Disease Control, slip and falls are the most common cause of fatal injuries for senior citizens. Slip and falls are also the most common cause of nonfatal injuries, which can put a painful halt on life for seniors who may already experience decreased mobility. With increasing lifespans slip and fall injuries, both fatal and nonfatal, will only continue to climb.



According to the New York Times, the number of people aged 65 and over who have died following a slip and fall incident has increased in the past years. About 24,000 seniors died from slip and fall accidents in 2012, which is the last time this type of data was calculated. This number is up almost 200% from the data recorded in 2002. Also in 2012, 2.4 million seniors were taken to the ER because of slip and fall accidents. This number is up 50% since one decade ago, indicating that slip and falls are on their way towards becoming a daily fear for senior citizens.

A slip and fall injury in a nursing home or senior care facility involves vastly different facts, causes, and legal analysis than most slip and fall cases. On admission to a nursing home, every resident undergoes a fall risk assessment. Based on the results of that assessment, an individualized care plan is developed, implemented, and reviewed regularly. The development of the fall prevention care plan, its implementation, and the review of the effectiveness of the care plan is where the real issues of the legal liability of nursing homes for slip and falls is determined.

The nursing home's legal responsibility does not stop there because there is another crucial step to consider in any fall prevention plan...and that is floor safety management! Safe Space Ingenuity, Inc. is a floor safety consulting firm and we provide in-field Coefficient of Friction (COF) testing on all hard surfaced flooring. COF testing is the measurement of slip resistance potential on a floor's surface. In other words, through testing and monitoring we have the ability to help our clients reduce the potential for a slip and fall accident. Together we can protect our senior citizens and reduce the risk for a slip and fall accident.

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