

Days Away From Work Injury – Slip/Fall

Investigation Lessons Learned Summary

Incident: DAFW Injury – Slip/Fall

Location: Brooklyn, NY USA

Type of Incident: Injury/Illness

Tr@ction No: 2013-IR-4598825

Business Unit: Remediation Management (RM)

Date of Incident: December 16, 2013

Brief Account of Incident: At approximately 11AM EST, while walking across the site along a similar path over which he had just traversed several minutes before, a contracted field technician (Injured Party, IP) slipped on a patch of ice and fell awkwardly to the ground landing on his left leg/side. The IP sustained a broken leg and torn ligaments from the fall. Orthopaedic surgery was required to correct the injury.

What Went Wrong:

(1) During the risk assessment, hazards resulting from the recent snowfall (i.e., icy conditions in the area of the incident) and associated controls for such had not been fully recognized or identified. (2) The IP failed to navigate a safer path around the affected area. (3) The IP traversed a path on snow/ice without mitigations such as: driven not walked; or used salt, sand or ice-melt as/where needed.

What Went Well:

(1) The buddy-system was in use so prompt aid was rendered. (2) Proper case management ensured the IP received appropriate and timely medical treatment. (3) Timely/thorough communication with RM's Project Manager.



Day-of_View to Northwest_20131216.jpg (bucket represents location of fall)

Lessons Learned:

For sites that can experience snow/ice conditions, provide 'pre-season' coaching to:

- ensure a deeper understanding of the hazards and mitigation options related to snow and ice on the jobsite.
- emphasize the need to **STOP WORK** and re-group and re-assess if conditions change after arriving at the job-site/work area or in mid-task. Resume work only after the risk is appropriately mitigated with proper controls.

Provide assurance that PPE is in good, functional condition by requiring each employee to inspect all PPE prior to commencing work. Work will not commence unless defective or worn PPE is replaced.

What Improvements will be made:

Risk assessment coaching focusing on working in winter weather conditions will be conducted.

Employing 'Hierarchy of Controls,' a checklist will be developed to assist in risk-assessing winter weather and ice-related conditions.

Eliminate hazard: utilize "Stop Work" – plan ahead and cancel work if weather conditions are not conducive for safe operations, or don't start work if site conditions are unsafe;

Substitute hazard: chose another location to work with better/safer site conditions;

Engineer out hazard: install guards near hazardous areas;

Administrative: drive if possible or designate safe walk-ways;

PPE: use "ice-cleats" or walking stick;

Mitigation: use a shovel, salt/ice-melt or add sand for traction.

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