

Slips, Trips, and Falls Prevention for School Districts: How a 20-Minute Online Course is Saving Thousands of District Dollars

CINCINNATI, OH, October 1st, 2009 –Injuries relating to slips, trips and falls account for more than \$10 billion in workers compensation costs each year. For most school districts, the thousands of employees who are injured each year from fall-related accidents are responsible for around 60% of their total workers compensation claims.

It's clear that slipping and falling hurts - in more ways than one.

"I've been down those halls a million times," said Sally Spooner, who in her 35th year as a teacher with Cody School District 6 in Wyoming suffered a severe injury after slipping on a wet tile floor. The fall dislocated her knee, damaged her popliteal artery, and resulted in the amputation of her lower right leg just a few days later. Spooner then filed a \$5 million injury claim with the district. "It was just a nanosecond in time that can change a life forever.

So, how can school districts prevent such accidents from occurring? According to Jim Vaughan, president of the Ohio-based safety consulting firm *Today's Resources Inc.*, the answer is through employee training. "The good news is that all staff members can significantly reduce the risks associated with slips, trips and falls by observing some simple precautions- including carefully following their district's workplace safety policies and procedures" says Vaughan.

Vaughan, along with former associate Karl Sommers III, are the original authors of the *Slips, Trips and Falls* course for SafeSchools.com, an online training and tracking system for school districts. Apparently, they know what they're talking about. Over the past few years, districts who have utilized this course have averaged a 50% reduction in fall-related incidents.

This school year, SafeSchools.com is taking prevention one step further by providing customized courses for school employees who are most likely to be involved in a fall-related incident.

The three new *Slips, Trips and Falls* course versions include hypothetical scenarios involving hazards that teachers, custodians, and nutrition service employees are most likely to encounter. The courses focus on prevention, but also review techniques to apply proper safe guards when working in slippery areas.

"The feedback from districts utilizing our original [Slips, Trips and Falls](http://SafeSchools.com) has been overwhelmingly positive, so we're excited about expanding our collection to include position-specific versions for teachers, custodial services and nutrition services" says

Brian Taylor, CEO of SafeSchools.com. “Our hope is that these new course versions will give our customers an edge while they battle this costly problem.”

And with the SafeSchools online training system behind it, delivering the content couldn't be any easier. Districts who use SafeSchools can assign the course to all employees with just a few clicks, and a management system automatically tracks everyone as they complete their training. A number of other features, including automatic email notification, can completely automate the entire process.

Jim Vaughan is president of [Today's Resources, Inc. \(TRI\)](#), and has over 40 years of direct OSHA compliance, safety consulting, and loss-control experience. Karl Sommers III, a former TRI associate, has over 20 years of safety experience, including acting as Executive Director of the Columbus (OH) Chamber of Commerce Safety Council.

Mr. Vaughan and Mr. Sommers are just a few of the many [school safety experts](#) who contribute content to [SafeSchools.com](#), which has a library of over 100 courses for school employees.

[SafeSchools](#) is a product of Scenario Learning, a publishing company in Cincinnati, Ohio specializing in safety, health and compliance resources for school districts and colleges. Other Scenario Learning programs include [SafeColleges](#), [SchoolMSDS](#), and the [LiveTip](#) anonymous tip line.

Contact:
Jim Nulsen, Director of Marketing
Scenario Learning
800.434.0154 ext. 7009
www.safeschools.com

###