



Division of Risk Management

Transcript for Webinar Series: “Slips, Trips, and Falls”

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Speakers: Wesley Whittington (Engineer & Liability Prevention Specialist)

Meeting Setup and Audio/Visual Check

Ron Boshard: And then whenever you want to rock and roll. You're good to go.

Wesley Whittington: Okay, I was just swapping rooms so I can get a little better computer setup.

(Pause)

Wesley Whittington: Alright, can you all see my screen? Are you getting the presentation side of it or are you getting the admin side of it?

Ron Boshard: I am seeing all of it. There we go.

Wesley Whittington: Okay. Yeah, maybe we'll wait a few more minutes. Maybe start at 10:05. That sound good to everyone? Let a couple more come in. Anybody have any questions on things before we start? Everyone hear me alright, see everything alright?

Ingrid Manning: Yes, I can hear and see you very well.

Wesley Whittington: Awesome, thanks Ingrid, and Lisa's thumbs up. And Wes's thumbs up. Good looking thumb, Wes.

(Pause)

Presentation Start: Slips, Trips, and Falls

Wesley Whittington: Alright, I'm a little impatient. Let's go ahead and start. I don't want to wait for two more minutes in silence. So if nobody's got any questions to start, um, today we're going to cover slips, trips, and falls. And I was going through my notes and it looked like I had done a winter weather-related webinar about this time last year. And I did cover some slips, trips, fall stuff. So today, in an effort to not double down on the exact same information, I took out a lot of the winter weather stuff and today I kind of wanted to

focus more on what we can do to proactively prevent them, because you already know what slips, trips, and falls are. You know what a lot of the issues are that you have within your campuses. So I thought I'd go over some of that same detail and add a little bit of difference today. So if nobody has any other questions, we'll go ahead and get started.

If you have questions while I'm going, please feel free to stop me and go ahead and ask them. And at this point, I can't see any hands being raised or anything when I present, so feel free to...

Ron Boshard: I'll let you know.

Wesley Whittington: Okay, sounds good.

Introductions and Safety Disclaimer

Wesley Whittington: Alright. So, like I mentioned, today we're going to do a webinar series of slips, trips, and falls. My name is Wesley Whittington, Liability Loss Control Consultant/Engineer with the Utah State Risk Management. And today we're going to cover slips, trips, and falls, and our goal is to reduce claims, and hopefully through prevention and mitigation.

I did want to show you an awesome video. Hopefully we can all see it. Should give a disclaimer. Can anyone see this screen?

Ron Boshard: We just see the YouTube link.

Wesley Whittington: Okay. Let's make this happen. Anybody squeamish? There's no blood, there's nothing, the guy doesn't really get hurt, but in the effort to lighten the mood, I'm going to show you a guy falling, so.

(Video plays showing a rock climber falling from a cliff face, held by a safety rope)

Wesley Whittington: Okay. Now that we got that out of the way, I wanted to say that most falls that we are going to experience in the state of Utah are nowhere near like that, so. Our goal today is to prevent those kind of actions.

Ron Boshard: Wes likes to go and do that, so I'm surprised you look at those.

Wesley Whittington: Oh, as you can tell, they kind of make me a little squeamish. But still fun to watch. Because he survived, he's alright. Got a little banged up, but... okay.

Defining Slips, Trips, and Falls

Wesley Whittington: I always like this quote: "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail."

And we all know what slips are. Definition is to slide on or down a slippery surface. Within the state of Utah, it's usually—well, anywhere—it's usually caused by reduced friction from one or more of the following: low friction on your walking surface, whether that's wet, dusty, oily, slippery, you name it, whatever kind of walking surface. Ice, snow, and rain are repeatedly causing these. Poor shoe traction. And obviously, poor walking form. Poor walking form is something that I wish we could teach people how to do better, but they're never going to listen. Students are the worst, they wear the worst shoes in the worst conditions and they run, they take long strides instead of walking like penguins, but that's something we can't really fix.

Trips. To catch the foot against something so as to stumble. And usually caused by excessive changes in height, whether that's uneven sidewalk slabs, floor-mounted door stoppers, furniture, carpet tiles, rugs, thresholds, boxes, you name it. We've seen people trip over just about anything in the state.

And falls. To descend freely by the force of gravity. Exactly what that climber just did. Gravity got a hold of him and pulled him right down. And it's usually secondary to an event of a slip and trip. Other times they involve theater stages. They're not exclusively secondary events. Sometimes there's no slip, sometimes there's no trip. Someone just falls off of a ladder, sometimes they fall off theater stages, chairs, tables, things they probably shouldn't be standing on. There are ways to prevent those and usually in administrative controls and providing some type of guards or highlighting the hazards.

Common Hazard Locations and Water Mitigation

Wesley Whittington: Common slip, trip, fall locations within the state of Utah have been cracks on sidewalks, uneven slabs, holes in the sidewalks. Interior walkways, so slippery wet surfaces. Water fountains seem to be a pretty popular one. I don't know if people overfill their water bottle, dump it on the floor, and then the next person coming by and trips on it. Landscaped areas, we get a lot of trips on missing irrigation box covers, exposed utilities, pipes sticking out of the ground, sprinklers sticking out of the ground, vermin holes. Parking lots, we always get a lot of holes in them, uneven surfaces. And, you name it. We've found it.

Slips. Fun fact, we rarely have claims for slips without falls. Occasionally it does happen. Someone kind of slips, catches themselves, and hurts a knee or something. But most of our claims involving slips and trips involve the fall.

So, one way to help mitigate and prevent slips, trips, and falls inside the building or even outside the building is setting up a proper water mitigation plan. And that's to help figure out the areas where you have anticipated water exposure. Whether that's from tracking water in during storms, occupant-tracked water, areas around water fountains, sinks, anywhere that's going to bring water and put it onto a surface that is slippery. That is something you want to address in a water mitigation plan because you know how to—you know where it's going to be found. You know how to address it. You know how to clean it up.

And then the unanticipated water exposures is making a plan to address those when they happen. A leaking roof, ruptured pipes, leaking valves, mishandled liquids. Those happen all the time. And sometimes they're properly mitigated and they don't result in a claim or an injury, but other times they're not. So water mitigation plans are the best way to help prevent these types of incidents.

Within the plans, you can figure out how to alert occupants of the hazards. Setting up signs and ropes and cones. Properly handling of the water intrusion, whether it's a small intrusion or a very, very large intrusion. Properly implementing the plan immediately upon initial report. Assuming someone says, "Hey, there's water out there," get that plan in action, start getting everything set up you need to do to properly mitigate it. And all reports of water intrusion should be taken seriously.

We've seen a couple cases where a couple people slip and trip and I don't know, maybe it doesn't get taken immediately to the janitor or someone that can actually clean it up and they just kind of go and mitigate it themselves or they don't mitigate it and they just take the person into like the office after they fell, but they didn't do anything about the water, and now more people are slipping on it. So as soon as something happens, it's time to start mitigating. And all staff and admin should need to be aware of the plan and how to set the wheels in motion.

Mitigation Equipment: Carts and Mats

Wesley Whittington: Water mitigation carts. So this is just a cart that you have on hand ready to address any type of water intrusion. And at a minimum it should have slippery when wet signs, caution tape, cones that you can set around the hazard area. Mops and other absorbing material for absorbing water or oil or whatever else may have fell. If you're working with chemicals, having the proper absorbency material to pull up the chemicals. Floor drying fans, air movers are a great idea to have because they can dry it very quickly.

Additional walk-off mats. This one is pretty important because walk-off mats, especially on really rainy or snowy slushy days, these can get fully saturated to the point where they're not doing anything except for holding more water and not taking off any tracked water. So having additional walk-off mats that you can place once the mat is getting close to being saturated, so now you have a dry one that can absorb a lot more water. I would recommend if anything, get additional walk-off mats and floor drying fans.

Areas need to be frequently checked for deviations from the plan, compromising conditions. Like I said, finding walk-off mats that have been fully saturated or finding slippery when wet signs that have been kicked to the side. Caution tape's been taken away or cones are gone. Anything that has—is not what it should be, get it back to that point. Office staff and admin need to know the plan and help maintain it again.

And when I say office staff, my mind mostly thinks of like high school main entrances, but it applies to any office space you work at. Even if it's like a college campus or a business occupancy, someone there is like the building facilities coordinator and they should—they know need to know how the plan works even if they're not fully involved with it, with maintenance or custodial staff.

For walk-off mat sizing and placement, ideally you should have two sets. The first set traps dirt and debris, like the ice melt, rocks, dirt, etc. And then the second one traps the moisture. Industry standards recommend usually 15 to 25 feet of mats and that's kind of based on the average stride length of two and a half to three foot per person. So therefore when they're stepping across there, they're getting at least three to four steps on the walk-off mats per foot. And that's just one of the best ways to get the water off. And then should be professionally cleaned routinely as needed, whenever. And then obviously they need to be set out to dry after they get saturated.

Exterior Mitigation: Snow, Ice, and Hazards

Wesley Whittington: Now with exterior mitigation, we want to look at snow removal activities, ice melt activities, and early identification of hazardous areas like low spots in walkways along sidewalks that can pool water and ice.

Prevent non-approved paint. We've paid out a couple very, very large claims and we've had a couple claims that may have not progressed as far based on schools and or colleges painting the sidewalk for like homecoming events or some type of other school spirit. And if they're not using walkway-approved paint that does not reduce the friction, you're setting yourself up for failure with someone slipping and falling when it comes to sprinkler water, when it comes to rain water, snow melt. Yeah, we've had a couple large claims where someone slipped on paint when it was raining and paid out quite a bit for that one.

Educate occupants about hazards and how to avoid them. Like people cutting across non-walking areas. We see it all the time with students wanting to get to school pretty quickly or people not wanting to walk all the way around on the sidewalks, so they step across the grass. And that gets their feet wet because the sprinklers might have been on that night.

Wearing appropriate shoes. Obviously, super flat shoes with no traction are not going to do you a lick of good when your feet are wet. And then walking like a penguin is one of the best ways to reduce—you're keeping your body weight directly above your feet and not stretching legs out too far so you don't go into a nasty little slip.

Documentation and Record-Keeping

Wesley Whittington: So a little more on snow and ice removal logs. We highly recommend them. They have helped us get out of a few claims before with people claiming that we didn't do enough, or the entities didn't do enough to prevent ice build-up or snow build-up. We can show that, hey, the district or the university or the business, the entity, whoever owns it, they show at least on GPS tracking or their manual log books or whatever else they're using to track this, that they plowed there at this certain time. They placed ice melt in these areas at this certain time.

So if it's a heavy weather day we can show that, hey, you're doing your best you possibly could. But given the conditions, you're kind of on notice too that it was a really wet, snowy day and you're also responsible for your own safety. So having snow removal logs and ice melt logs is one of the best ways to help reduce the possibility of having claims or paying out claims when it comes to ice and snow.

And then back again, non-walking surface approved paints should be prohibited. You need to figure out—you need to only provide paint that is certified for walking on wet surfaces outside.

And then another item with exterior mitigation is when you're testing hydrants, inspectors test anything that might be flowing into walkways, into parking lots, into the grass, and it happens to be winter time, go ahead and block that area off. See if you can wait to do it on a nicer day when it's sunny and actually might melt the ice. But if it's on the north side of a building in February and you think that ice might be there for a while, you're going to have to do a lot of extra work to get the ice melt to actually melt the ice and prevent people from slipping on it. The best thing to do is try to prevent it if you can. But if you can't, go ahead and block it off until you can clear that ice completely away from it.

Defining and Mitigating Trips

Wesley Whittington: So trips. What constitutes a tripping hazard? This has been one that I've been struggling with for a while. I cannot find anywhere that readily defines by code or standard what a tripping hazard is. Owners are required to mitigate or eliminate hazards within their areas, but not that I've ever found that addresses what a tripping hazard is by definition.

ADA addresses quarter inch as a barrier for accessibility. And personal injury lawyers and concrete cutting companies commonly use that quarter inch as a standard. So it has become pretty much an unannounced standard or unengineered standard of a quarter inch. Any lip greater than a quarter inch needs to be mitigated, whether that be lips, edges, other various hazards. Greater than a quarter inch needs to be mitigated.

And we recommend that, oh yeah, we commonly get slips and fall—or trips and fall claims with lips between one quarter inch and one inch that end up paying out. So because there's no basis, we can really—we can't really fight that says there is no one quarter inch trip hazard. That's just a road that we really can't go down. So from this standpoint, we say any lip greater than a quarter inch needs to be mitigated, whether you do that concrete grinding, slab jacking, whatever you gotta do to fix it. So quarter inch is what we're going at.

And then when it comes to gaps in sidewalks, any gap that will accept a half inch sphere—just picture like a half inch marble slipping into a gap and it goes all the way down gets covered up—that's something we also want to mitigate. Because that starts getting into ADA accessibility as well, with wheelchair access and crutches and walkers and anything that might get stuck in that half inch sphere. Or people's shoes get stuck in it, people trip on it. So yeah. So quarter inch lips and half inch gaps.

Sidewalk Inspection and Repair Programs

Wesley Whittington: Now ways to mitigate. Step one, develop a sidewalk inspection program. And I will show you an example of one that we've kind of drafted up here. Sidewalk inspection program is a great way to kind of show your due diligence and prudence with trying to mitigate all of the lips and gaps that are greater than quarter inch and half inch respectively over your campus, over miles and miles and miles of sidewalk. It seems daunting, but if you can set up a program that shows that you're trying to do your best, that is good on our side to be able to like, hey, yes, there is absolutely no way they can address all of these. But they've started from the hardest ones down to the littlest ones. So maybe gross negligence is not there.

And once you identify them and find them, obviously you know the ways to fix them: slab jack, concrete grinding, repouring the slabs, etc. We want to prohibit hoses and extension cords crossing walking paths. If necessary, use cord protectors or hose protectors, something that provides that proper sloping up and over and back down. I'm sure we've all seen cord protectors. They have ones for inside and outside.

Remove floor-mounted door stoppers. Is recommended. Install, if you are going to leave them, install protective bollards. A bollard that at least comes up to a certain height so people can see that the hazard is there. Because floor-mounted door stoppers are so low, people usually don't look when they're at the doorways and see the hazard of them. But a protective bollard will protect—you can even install the door stop on the bollard. But it just makes it a little easier for people to see. Or install overhead devices.

Repair doorway thresholds. Repair or replace curled rugs, carpets, carpet tiles, other flooring. Inspect fields all the time and grass ways for anything that might be some type of tripping hazard. And then keep walkways clear of obstructions.

Identifying High-Risk Areas

Wesley Whittington: You'll identify any lip or edge greater than a quarter inch and any gaps greater than a half inch. And the goal would be, I don't know if people—I'm sure you've done it with hiring companies—but you number each hazard you identify in numerical order. You log its number, location, measurements, assign a risk category. And then you physically or visually identify it. Obstruct if necessary. If it's a big enough hazard well known, block it off.

And then try to allocate a budget each year to properly mitigate the highest risk category. And just ensure that each year like, "Well, we have this amount of money to spend on sidewalks." And it'll be the same amount next year and the same amount next year. And we'll just work on the top-rated hazards. And then reinspect annually to identify any new hazards that have come up and apply new risk categories. Electronic tracking forms offer the best method for doing the program.

Handling Liability Misconceptions

Wesley Whittington: Liability misconceptions. "Highlighting the hazard is putting ourselves on notice." I've heard this quite a few times like, "Is it better to leave it unhighlighted, unvisually identified for people to find and just claim we didn't know about it, or does that just show that hey, we knew about it but we didn't fix it?" From our standpoint and a litigation standpoint, it is much better to prove you are attempting to mitigate the hazard. And by highlighting it, you're showing that you're attempting to mitigate it.

By highlighting a hazard as well, for every one person that trips on it, you may have prevented hundreds or thousands of people from tripping on it because they're the ones who actually looked down, saw it, and like, "Oh yeah, I don't want to trip on that, I'll walk over it." So highlighting it is the best answer. Or visually identifying it, physically identifying it.

And then "We shouldn't have to highlight every hazard on campus" and "Not highlighting the hazard makes us appear more innocent." Those appear to sound logical. Highlighting the hazard will protect most of the public. And like I mentioned, for every claim we receive, many more patrons see the hazard and avoid it.

Elevated Surfaces and Playground Falls

Wesley Whittington: So when it comes to falls, some prevention items we can do. So elevated walking surfaces greater than 30 inches. So if you have a sidewalk that is 30 inches above the floor or the ground surface below, needs to be properly protected with guards. There are some exceptions like theater stages and loading docks, leading edges. But those should be visually identified with high visibility paint or tape, something that kind of shows the demarcation of where the edge of that is so people—it doesn't blend into the surface below.

Raised floor surfaces other than stairs should have contrasting colors or color corner transition piece. Let's say you have a completely tiled cafeteria, but you kind of have a ramp that goes up and goes up about four inches. But it's all the same color tile. That edge of that four inch raised elevation is going to blend in with the floor below. So you put on some type of colored transition piece, corner transition piece, something that kind of shows, "Hey look, there is a hazard right here." So watch your step.

Stairs need to have handrails. Appropriate lighting needs to be maintained in areas with fall hazards. Let's say you have an orchestra pit in your stage area, and you've removed the covering for it, and now you have an exposed six to twelve foot fall depending on how deep your orchestra pit is. That needs to be protected. You need to have adequate lighting there to show people like, "Hey, there is this fall hazard." There should be some type of visibility demarcation showing there is a hazard there. And then maybe even providing netting in there so in case someone does fall, they actually get caught by it.

Then we get into playgrounds. These are the most common playground fall types we have. I was looking through all the claims and these seem to be about the top four. Monkey bars—lots of kids fall off monkey bars. A lot of them fall off slides. And a lot of them seem to be related to pushed by their friends. I don't know

what kind of friends are pushing kids, but I guess we were all elementary students at one point. We all know. And pretty much students have fallen off every point of a playground equipment.

When it comes to preventing these, the best we can do is supervision. Supervision, supervision. Ensuring that the playground monitors and supervisors are doing their job, not just distracted by phones and whatever, but making sure that they are watching what the students are doing. If they see rough housing, kids are climbing on things they shouldn't be climbing on, they need to be stopping them. And I think for the most part they are, but we still have a lot of playground falls. It's hard to stop all the kids from doing all the things they want to do. But we just try our best.

And then I wanted to pose a question, are falls from playgrounds preventable? I think for the most part they are. Proper supervision can prevent them, but it's not to prevent all of them because supervision isn't always there. We just need to make sure the equipment is properly installed, guards are where they need to be, any anticipated fall heights need to be protected by whatever required surfacing there is.

Playground use in the winter time is very dangerous. That includes maintaining the playground outside of school hours or closing it off while school's not in session and no one is in there, like over winter break or something. Because the public is still going to possibly come use that playground. So if it's still the winter time and school's out of session, the playground should be completely closed or maintained.

Know when to close the playground or elevated play surfaces. If you have exposed concrete footings that are sticking out or if you have dirt underneath—if all the surfacing has been removed and you've just got dirt there, or winter conditions necessitate it, you should have no issues closing your playground because you don't want students or anybody getting hurt. Because those lead to severe, severe injuries or death.

Daily inspections conducted and physically recorded for unsafe walking surfaces, temperatures, frozen surfacing, standing stagnant water, equipment hazards or failures or issues. If closing playgrounds, do more than just putting signs up. Try to physically obstruct the slides, climbers, swings, anything that's going to get them to an elevated height. Kids don't read signs. Most adults don't read signs. But physically obstructing it makes them understand that it is closed. Supervision, supervision. And then if necessary, inform all parents of playground closures that way the parents were informed of it so they know to keep their kids away.

Claims Overview Data (FY 2023 - Present)

Wesley Whittington: Alright. Any questions about falls? I know I'm flying over this stuff. We all know what slips, trips, and falls are, but kind of just giving you the meat and potatoes.

(Pause)

Wesley Whittington: No questions? Alright. Hope you all can still hear me.

We will go into claims overview. So I ran a claims overview for slips, trips, and falls from fiscal year 2023 until about five days ago. So these are all the claims we've had since July 1, 2022, related to slips, trips, and falls. And we'll give a disclaimer, it might not accurately represent all of the claims we get because it all kind of depends on how they get input in our system and what the reported loss is, how they actually get assigned a certain category within our claims. But I think I did a pretty good job of getting the majority of them in.

So this first graph shows... I created my own cause which led to the cause of the claims, so we could kind of see what actually led to the claim. I went through like 350 claims like I mentioned, and tried to assign all of the names you see on the bottom are the causes that I came up with to kind of give us an idea of exactly where the claims are coming from.

As you can see, ice/snow. The orange bar chart is representative of the amount of dollars we've paid. So the dollars is on the left-hand side. I know I should have put legends that are on this chart but... and the blue line is the number of claims we've paid, which is on the right axis.

So ice/snow, we get a lot of claims. It is our highest claims driver, with over 50 claims, and we paid over about \$220,000 in claims for ice and snow related falls. A lot of those are like ER trips or MRIs or scans, and a lot of out-of-pocket expenses.

And then playgrounds leads the way in dollars paid. That's well over \$900,000 we paid in playground claims in the last three-plus fiscal years. With a lower number of claims. So lower number of claims, higher paid out claims, higher dollars spent. And then ice and snow, lower paid out but much higher. We're just waiting on the day where we have a large payout on the ice and snow.

And these were all of the—it's kind of the same chart as this one, this is where the data came from. So I sorted it by count of claim number. So our top five, if you look at the bottom, are fall from heights, and that's anything from falling off stage, falling off stairs, and those are like dry stairs because wet stairs I kind of attributed to something else. Whether that be interior slippery surface or exterior slippery surface. Fall from heights was an interesting one to try to filter through.

Physical education, students climbing on things they shouldn't be climbing on during PE class, tripping over balls, getting picked up and thrown. There was just a lot of different types of claims within physical education.

Sidewalk/parking lot maintenance, so this is usually all the slips, all the raised lips and gaps in concrete. This is all of the walking surfaces that aren't flush, that aren't safe for walking basically. So if you have asphalt that kind of rolls, if you have concrete slabs that are lifted, that's what the sidewalk/parking lot maintenance claims are.

Playground, obviously we kind of know what all playgrounds is.

And then ice and snow related. Ice and snow related is there walking specifically on ice and/or snow. There is a category of exterior slippery walkway, which you see the top red arrow. That's usually like a sprinkler that was spraying or there was some type of algae that was on it. Exterior slippery walkway I made was not related to ice and snow, but it was related to irrigation and other kind of random stuff.

So there's five of them. And this is where the paint claims come in. For five claims we had \$176,000, but \$175,000 was for one claim and that was a painted sidewalk. Hence why we don't want painted sidewalks. And then interior slippery surface, we had 22 claims for \$93,000.

So to kind of go over the top five claims that I mentioned. Fall from heights, as you can see playground was leading the charge. And I found it interesting that the top five claims had 175—still had 71% of all claims we had for slips, trips, and falls were related to these top five. That makes sense for the top five. And 81% of the dollars paid out for claims went to these top five.

Entity Type Claims Data

Wesley Whittington: And then now we get into entity type. I wanted to run the entity type, whether that be other, charter school, state government, higher education, or school district, and kind of see how much money per claim is related to those entities.

So "Other" is like quasi-state government. They had one claim that paid zero dollars out. Charter schools, four claims. State government, 19. Higher education, 69. School district, 155.

And you can see that school districts kind of leading the charge there. They did have one very large claim for slips, trips, and falls within the last few years. But we can see that the school district had like \$10,000 worth per claim. So \$10,500 per claim is quite high. Higher education, \$3,600. State government, \$1,800. Charter schools, \$1,200.

But what I wanted to try to make it a little more even was remove the large outlier claim that we had. And then run the numbers again. It's still about \$5,000 per claim for school districts. So that's definitely half of it, but school districts obviously have a lot of—we have a lot of school districts, 41 school districts. They have a lot of property, a lot of sidewalks, a lot of people coming in and out, so it kind of makes sense. But thought we'd just kind of show you.

Zero-Dollar and Closed Claims Data

Wesley Whittington: And then some other interesting claims information. We have 180 out of the 193 closed claims payments were less than \$10,000. So almost 90-plus percent, 95% of the claims that we had that are closed were less than \$10,000. 113 of them resulted in zero-dollar payments. So they closed, whether that be we didn't find any liability, we denied it and they accepted it, or they never submitted a claim. Whatever else resulted in them not ending up filing a claim within that year period, we paid out \$0 for 113 of them.

50 of them were worth \$69 up to \$2,500. 17 of them were worth \$2,500 to \$10,000. And then 13 of them were between \$12,200 and \$175,000. So I like that number of the 113 that we paid zero out, but can't always get those.

And then interesting claims information, we have 54 open claims and currently paid out so far from zero dollars up to \$867,000. So depending on how far they go, these numbers obviously go quite a bit higher. And we have 34 currently at zero dollars, but those ones are pending litigation, denial, whatever else. So they may equate to paying out on something or they may stay at zero. Only time will tell.

Inspection Form Templates and Closing Remarks

Wesley Whittington: Alright. Now I'll try to go a little faster. I'm sure people got some things to get back to. But I want to kind of go over the sidewalk inspection program.

(Wesley switches screen share to an Excel spreadsheet)

Wesley Whittington: Okay. Can everyone see this? That looks like you should be able to.

Ingrid Manning: Yes. Thanks Wes.

Wesley Whittington: Alright, so this didn't take but a couple hours to build for myself and I just got to a point where I was like, I'm recommending people to do this, why don't I at least try to make one and then see if it's something that people are interested in and might make it easier for them to work with. Or if they want this copy, they can kind of play with it and modify it themselves.

So let's pretend that we did an inspection today on November 12, 2025. And we numbered our hazard number four. Nearest building, we'll say the TSOB building, which is high volume of foot traffic. We'll say it's the main entrance. So location description: Main Entrance. Mitigation required, let's say it's a one-inch lip. We can get away with some slab jacking. And we know that it's a lip, so I've got drop-downs in here that kind of do a data... it won't let you put anything else but lip or gap. Notice if I put lip in, it'll block this out. So now I have to put in the height of the lip over here. But if I selected gap, it would block this one out so you have to put in the width of the gap on the other side.

But in the gap, or what did we say, let's just call it a one-inch lip. So that already applies a lip impact severity of four over here. For a volume traffic of one, but let's say TSOB's main entrance is a volume traffic of five. Now we've got a very high risk matrix for that. So this one needs to be addressed very quickly.

Let's say we put in a two-inch gap there, that gets us up to Extreme. So it's kind of a fun thing to play with. I know "fun" might be the wrong term, I think climbing is fun. I'm not sure about data Excel spreadsheets, but it was kind of interesting to make this.

You could sort and filter at the end of this and be able to figure out your top so many hazards that require so much money to mitigate and then fix them from there. Yeah, I just think anybody who's interested in playing with this and getting one of these set up for your organization, feel free to reach out and we'll provide a copy of this to you. Because I think it's... I think it's the bee's knees. But obviously anything can be improved on, so.

If anyone else has any questions, I think I'll probably call it. It probably took longer than I probably should have, but I appreciate it.

(Pause)

Wesley Whittington: Alright, any questions?

(Long pause)

Wesley Whittington: I'll take that as a no. Okay. Yep. Thank you for all you saying thank you. Thanks for joining the State Risk Slips, Trips, and Falls. If you have any questions or would like copies of these, I don't want to send them out to every single person. But if you are interested, please reach out to anyone here within State Risk Management for copies of them.