

If You Don't Like the Weather.....

Slips, trips, and falls, and preparing for bad weather

It does not matter if you are new to the area or have lived in New England all of your life, you're here now, and you have to understand that weather and especially winter weather, can be harsh and very unpredictable. The age old adage, "If you don't like the weather, wait a few minutes and it will change," very much applies.

Tufts University reports all injuries that result in lost time from work annually to the United States Department of Labor. This reporting is submitted for all three campuses in January. In reviewing all injuries, there is pattern of slip, trip and fall injuries related to weather conditions. The most common month for those injuries is February.

Tufts Facilities Services does an excellent job trying to keep up with bad weather. If a storm occurs during evening hours, crews will be brought in in the middle of the night to attempt to keep up with conditions. If the

weather is really bad Tufts will consider closing which is usually decided by 5:30 or 6:00AM the morning of. Refer to the local TV and radio stations or the "Tufts Weather Emergency Line" at 617-627-INFO. On occasion the storms occur while we are at work or on our way into work, this presents a problem for Facility Services to keep up with both sidewalks, stairs, and roadways. It is on these occasions that employees, faculty, and students are at greatest risk for slip, trip, and fall injuries. Everyone can take the following common sense steps to reduce the risk of injuries.

1. Dress properly for the weather conditions, proper coats, hats, gloves and most important footwear. Shoes with slippery bottoms or high heels are not a good idea in icy or even rainy weather conditions.
2. Footwear such water proof or resistance boots are almost a necessity under deteriorating weather conditions. The boots should have rubber or slip resistant heels.
3. Avoid outside stairs, sloped sidewalks high traffic areas and areas in which visibility is limited due to snowbanks.
4. Watch where you walk, walkways, stairs, and the immediate interior of buildings can be very slippery. Some may have black ice and may not even appear slippery.
5. Just because you made it into your building safely do not let down your guard. The floors and stairs may still be wet. Continue to use caution whenever you approach an area that may still be wet or icy. Similar, be aware of temporary mats and rugs that have been placed to absorb water and may not be securely taped down.
6. Assure your additional clothing and footwear is properly stored at your workplace to avoid creating an additional trip hazard.
7. Finally if you see a location that may need more attention, contact the Facility Service office in your area and let them know.

If you should have an incident from a slip trip and fall, do not hesitate to call Campus Police at x.6-6911 and request assistance. If you should fall, be sure to complete the proper accidents reports located at <http://publicsafety.tufts.edu/ehs/accident-and-incident-reporting-at-tufts-university>

Part of the responsibility for being safe, during our long harsh winters, rest with each of us.

*PLEASE DISPLAY ON COMMUNITY BOARDS OR SHARE WITH ANYONE WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED



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