



## Prepare NOW for Winter Weather

This past winter a number of Conference employees were injured after slipping and falling on snow and ice. Our valued congregants, visitors, and early childhood "customers" (children and their parents) could also be subject to slips and falls in winter weather.

### *Inspect Parking Lots and Sidewalks Now*

Why now, you might ask? Take a walk on your location's sidewalks and parking lots, and check for areas where leaves and acorns accumulate; they could mask serious defects, like that shown at right. Most likely, these depressions will also accumulate water and ice in colder weather. Identify and fix these areas now (or rope them off during/after winter storms).



### *Check Supplies Now*

Does your church or Conference location have the necessary snow and ice removal equipment, and is it in good shape?

- Do you have enough snow shovels, ice chippers, and wheel barrows, and are they in good shape?
- Have snow blowers and plows been serviced?
- Do you have a supply of replacement door mats and/or non-skid runners (to replace those that may become saturated)? Mats and runners should be at least 10-12 feet to adequately remove water, snow, and ice from the bottom of shoes.
- Ice melt is crucial during and after winter storms. Check your supply now, as later it could be in short supply

### *Identify a Plowing Contractor*

If you plan to utilize a contractor to clear your location's lots and sidewalks, select a contractor (and back-up) based on their experience, response times, and capabilities. Also make sure that they are adequately insured so that your church is protected from liability.

### *Reference the Conference's "Snow and Ice Treatment and Removal Plan".*

This plan is located on the Conference Safety Committee page ([click here](#)), and includes a plethora of information to help you prepare your site for winter weather. The plan also includes:

- Checklists for pre- and post-storm activities
- Pros and cons of various ice melt products
- Safety talk on "Safe Shoveling"
- A "Snow/Ice Treatment Log" to document your snow/ice treatment and removal efforts to help you defend against General Liability Claims.

**Prepare NOW to prevent slip/fall problems later!**

Visit [www.susumc.org/workplace-safety](http://www.susumc.org/workplace-safety) for safety news and resources!