



Safety Alert!

Watch Out For Ice!

A Conference employee was seriously injured at work this week, falling while removing trash cans that were placed in front of – and blocking – an emergency exit at a preschool facility. The employee attempted to move two of the large cans at a time. On their second trip (for the remaining two cans), they hit a patch of ice and fell, fracturing a leg.

There are several issues at play here.

An emergency exit must never be blocked, from either side of the exit door (inside or outdoors).

This is the most basic of life safety rules. But for the fact that someone placed these trash cans outside the exit door, the employee would not have been placed at risk.

Why were trash cans placed against exit doors?

Make sure your trash removal contractor is reminded not to place cans in front of any door.

Snow can become an obstacle to free and clear egress.

Make sure your snow removal contractor, church employees and volunteers do not block exit doors with snow. Emergency egress must never be blocked for any amount of time. *Egress* is the process of moving to, through, and away from an emergency exit door. Egress must never be hindered by any means. It's the law!

Frequently survey the property for ice.

After ice is treated with ice melt, it may refreeze, especially in shaded locations. Make sure someone is walking the property with additional snow melt in order to identify – and treat - such areas.

And remember “safe walking”.

The employee was pulling two trash cans, one in each hand, which prevented her from maintaining balance while walking on the ice.

Footwear is extremely important!

There are slip-on “treads” that provide additional traction while walking on ice. One such brand is “Yak Trax”, pictured here. One note, however, these cannot be worn indoors on smooth surfaces (become slippery), thus must be removed before entering buildings.



For information on employee safety resources, visit the Conference Safety Committee website: <https://susumc.org/workplace-safety/>