

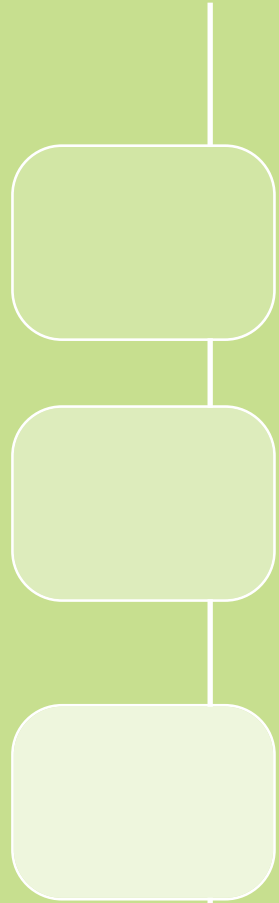
NASUWT

The Teachers' Union
NORTHERN IRELAND

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Trips, Slips and Falls



NASUWT Northern Ireland

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The largest teachers' union in Northern Ireland

16/07021 Northern Ireland

health&safety
at work

The largest teachers' union in Northern Ireland

Accident prevention

Approximately a quarter of accident cases handled by the NASUWT on behalf of members, which involve solicitors, are due directly to teachers slipping, tripping or falling at work.

Accident prevention in the workplace should be a top priority for the employer and simple steps and checks can help.

- Changes in floor levels should be clearly marked and identifiable.
- Secondary floor covering should be considered for use on smooth surfaces, such as tiles, especially if they are susceptible to becoming slippery.
- Wet surfaces from, for example, recent cleaning, leakage or spillage of liquids, should be reported for immediate action and marked with warning signs.
- Lighting should be adequate to reduce the risk of trips or falls.
- Working areas should be clean and tidy.
- Possible hazards must be recognised, reported and dealt with.

Areas of special concern

Whilst trips, slips and falls may occur anywhere, there are some areas of concern that may need particular attention, where hazards and risks may be most significant.

- **Wet areas** (e.g. PE changing rooms, showers, swimming pools and entrances).
- **Work room/laboratories/workshops** (i.e. containing liquids, tools and equipment).
- **Walkways** (e.g. if affected by poor drainage or frozen in bad weather).

- **Staircases** (i.e. in terms of uneven tread and insecure handrails).
- **Corridors and thoroughfares** (where obstructions may exist).
- **Stages** (i.e. containing furniture, props, etc.).

Hazards and accidents or 'near misses' should all be reported. All accidents should be reported, on the appropriate form, which should be copied to and checked by the NASUWT Representative. Do not consider any accident minor or trivial.

Medical opinion or advice should also be sought. Possible future claims can be seriously hindered by not reporting such accidents or seeking medical advice.

When an NASUWT member suffers any injury, they should telephone the **NASUWT free Legal Advice Line 0808 100 2221**.

Advice and support

For additional advice and support, contact your NASUWT Local Association or NASUWT Northern Ireland Centre.

Contact details can be found:

- on the NASUWT website at www.nasuwt.org.uk;
- in the NASUWT diary; or
- by phoning 028 9078 4480.

Further information

In the NASUWT *Reporting Accidents* leaflet available via:

- www.nasuwt.org.uk/HealthAndSafety;
- advice@mail.nasuwt.org.uk.