

Accidents Can Happen Anywhere

You work in an office. That's a safe place to work, isn't it? Not necessarily. Accidents can happen to anybody, anytime, if they act in an unsafe manner or are exposed to an unsafe condition.

Here are a few examples of actual accidents that resulted in injury and lost time to office workers—people just like you and me:

- A clerk in an insurance company was returning to work after lunch when she slipped and fell on a stairway. The steps were wet because snow had been tracked in.
- A bookkeeper burned her left arm and side when she was disconnecting a coffee urn. The urn tipped and spilled hot coffee on her.
- A file clerk suffered a back strain when a fellow employee fell over backward, landing on top of her as she was squatting to get cards out of a file drawer.
- An office clerk tripped over an exposed telephone cord in her office and fell, catching herself with both hands as she hit the floor. She broke her arm and sprained her wrist.
- A secretary pulled a chair up to a lunch table. She caught her little finger on one of the wires on the bottom of the chair, breaking her finger.
- An office employee was going through a revolving door when someone else pushed the door faster. The door caught her right heel and leg, causing a blood clot in her leg.
- An employee dislocated his arm when he suddenly moved it while playing cards on his coffee break.
- An employee was trying to open an office window. He was pushing against the glass when the window broke and his hand went through the broken glass, cutting his wrist.
- A receptionist slipped on a newly waxed lunchroom floor and fell, bruising her back.
- An office employee was running through the company parking lot, stepped on a stone, and fell. She suffered a contusion to her lower back.
- Professional movers brought in a new desk for an employee. She was not satisfied with the positioning of the desk so she moved it and ruptured a disc in her back.
- A receptionist yawned while at work, and her jaw locked.

- A secretary got up from her desk to go to a file cabinet. She tripped over a telephone box installed in the floor and strained her back.
- An employee left a cup of coffee on his desk. When he returned to finish it, he didn't notice a bee inside the cup. The bee stung the inside of his upper lip.
- A clerk was running to catch an elevator. As she stepped into the elevator, she fell and sprained her right ankle. The elevator had stopped about one foot below the floor level.
- A receptionist sat down on a couch that needed repair. She fell through the seat cushion onto the floor, injuring her back.
- A secretary stood up to move from her desk to another, tripped on a desk drawer that had been left open, and sprained her lower back.

Let's remember that any of these accidents could have happened to you or to me. So, if you see someone acting in an unsafe manner, tell him about it. If you see an unsafe condition, report it. Safety is everybody's business.

