

Custodial Team injuries reduced because of these safety efforts

Our custodial staff was suffering too many injuries.

The biggest problem: “slips, trips, and falls”.

We had to come up with some better ways to keep staffers safe – and workers’ comp payments low.

Beefing up our safety program

Our first fix was inexpensive, but effective: We bought comfortable gel pack knee padded work pants for all our custodial team staffers. (Woodland Workwear: <http://www.kneedz.com/?gclid=CILkzLKznbACFUoGRQodRDwBQ>)

It was a simple step to prevent any minor injuries in case of a slip.

Next we partnered with our colleges risk insurance carrier: **PACE** Insurance, to provide online “SafeColleges” safety training for staffers (SafeColleges: <http://www.safeschools.com/news/enewsletters.php>).

Our workers are required to take one to two of the classes per month. They login when their work schedules permit and take the training at work.

Lastly, we teamed up with our “Sustainable Earth” cleaning chemical services provider (Coastwide Laboratories: <http://www.coastwidelabs.com/>) and had them come on site to give training on safe chemical and equipment use.

We videotape the sessions and then save them on our college department “wiki” site for new employee training.

Beefing up our safety program has really worked: We recently celebrated 200 days without a work-related, lost-time injury! This adds up to over 50,000 hours worked which is a new safety record for the department which is still ongoing. Custodial team members have received a safety award certificate and positive recognition by college administration leadership.

Bonus: Morale is much higher now because staffers feel appreciated and know we’re committed to keeping them safe.

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