

# THE RISK OBSERVER

Safety Information for Residents

## SLIPS AND FALLS

It is your responsibility to pay close attention to the condition of walking surfaces in the community, and to exercise good judgment to avoid any area that could pose a slipping hazard. Slipping and tripping are some of the most common accidents that occur in an apartment community. These incidents often occur for many reasons, such as walking in places that are not designated for walking, or not paying attention to a change in the walking surface. Because we are aware that this is such a common occurrence, we would like to bring to your attention some ways to avoid this from happening to you.

Walking surfaces will sometimes change as the weather changes and from one area to another. Course concrete will sometimes transition to smooth tiles, and vice versa. A smooth surface does not have to be wet to pose a slipping threat. Many types of flooring and conditions like tile, area rugs, or recently waxed surfaces can catch an unsuspecting person off guard. If these types of surfaces do become wet or damp, the potential hazard is multiplied. The weather also causes walking surfaces to constantly change.

The following is a list of recommendations and precautions you should consider:

- Sometimes other residents might drop or leave debris on a sidewalk, stairwell, or breezeway. Stay alert of what others may have left behind.
- On days that are rainy, water or moisture can be tracked into an already slippery area.
- Proper shoes can help prevent a slip. Be aware of the grip your shoes provide. Also, shoes that do not fit properly and shoes with worn out soles could cause you to lose your balance.
- Be alert of sidewalk and walkways that may be wet from a recent rain, a spill, landscaping sprinklers.
- During cold weather, pay close attention to icy conditions.
- Be aware of property signage and warnings. If a sign is posted, it is there for a reason. Avoid those areas.
- Walk; never run. There's shouldn't be any reason to run, except in an emergency.
- Do not take shortcuts across grass areas or through other landscaping.
- Use the handrail while on stairs, and never carry objects that block the view of your path.

Be on the lookout and immediately contact the management office to report any damaged stairs, handrails, walking surfaces, as well as objects that may pose a tripping hazard.

**Help us to maintain a safe environment for everyone.**