



A MINI TRAINING SESSION FOR INJURY PREVENTION

Quick Take on Safety

Avoid Shortcuts

TRAINING OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

- Overview: Explains hazards associated with taking shortcuts across snow and ice while walking and maintaining awareness in winter.
- Purpose: Remind employees of best practices to avoid slips and falls and prevent injuries.
- Preparation: Read and become familiar with this Quick Take. *Change as needed to reflect procedures and personnel in your department.*
- Handouts: Quick Review of Safety—Avoid Shortcuts

Shortcuts

Many winter slip, trip and fall injuries occur when people take routes that are either not intended as a path or are not shoveled or cleared. This often includes routes that require climbing over snowbanks at the edge of parking lots or by walking across the property or other area to a doorway.

Although weather conditions may make it more uncomfortable to take a few extra steps, the time taken to follow the safer path can help prevent painful and costly slips and falls. So please pay attention. Your health and safety is important to us; we don't want you to get hurt.

Common Shortcuts

You probably all know of a few of our most common shortcuts at the facility. [*Instructor Prompt: Ask for some examples from the audience.*] Some of the other most common shortcuts include:

- Direct lines from point A to B. People often would rather climb over a small snowbank than walk around it to the shoveled path, or would rather cut across the grounds to the door rather than follow a cleared sidewalk located farther away.
- Closer doors to the destination. In some facilities not all pathways or doors are cleared of snow. These locations may be the closest entrances to your destination, but are not the safest paths to take to get there.

Avoid Shortcuts

Even though you may use shortcuts regularly during the winter without any problems, the risk of an injury is greater. Don't let yourself be the person who gets hurt when a safer alternative is nearby.



Discussion Questions

This document is intended to help prevent injuries from shortcuts. What can we do to help prevent injuries from shortcuts? or coverage advice on any specific matter.

Avoid Shortcuts Session Planning and Review

Trainer

Training
Date

Department(s)

TRAINING GOALS

- Employees know and understand the value of avoiding shortcuts across snow and ice while walking.
- Employees identify and avoid common shortcuts at a worksite.

RESOURCES

- Step Wisely Winter Slip, Trip and Fall Prevention campaign materials, Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust, MCIT.org/step-wisely/

REVIEW

Did the training meet the stated goals?

How can the training be improved?

TRAINER COMMENTS

Attendance Record

Training Session Avoid Shortcuts

Trainer _____

Training Date _____

Participant Name (printed)	Participant Signature