



Stairway/Staircase Accidents

Remember that famous scene in *Gone with the Wind* when Scarlett O'Hara falls down the stairs? A lot of people still cringe when they think about it. That's because stairway and stairwell injuries are a common cause of serious injury—and sometimes, even death. These types of personal injuries are more common than some people might expect. Both outdoor and indoor stairways are extremely common areas for trips and falls. Consider these statistics from the National Safety Council.

- Over 1 million injuries occur each year as the result of stairway falls.
- Staircase and stairway accidents constitute the second leading cause of accidental injury, second only to motor vehicle accidents.
- Each year, there are 12,000 stairway accident deaths.

These statistics are reminders that even just using a simple stairway can be quite dangerous. Fall down a staircase and more than 100 pounds of weight will fall with you. Never mind a broken arm or leg—you can break your neck or back very easily. What does all of this mean for the average person? These statistics reveal that falls down stairs, staircases, and stairwells are a very real problem in everyday life, both at home and in the workplace.

Here at Conney Safety, we REQUIRE our employees to use the handrail every time they go up or down any staircase in our building (including our warehouse). If employee hands are full, we ask them to use the elevator. While we do put gritty traction strips on our main stairs, this extra grip to the shoes can potentially cause an employee to lose their balance. Be aware that you need to fully pick your feet up when traveling down stairs (as opposed to “sliding” your foot to the next step heading down). Also, always use an elevator if you feel dizzy, ill, or have some minor injury (back, legs, or feet) that might cause you some struggle when traversing the stairwell.

3/26/19