

## What every member should know about...

### TOP 5 INJURIES IN SCHOOLS

*The information for the following was published in the Michigan State University newsletter November 2002.*

#### **1. Trip and Fall Injuries - 40%**

Areas around schools that can trip you up are:

- Parking lot potholes
- Uneven sidewalks or walkways
- Entryway obstruction including rugs and mats
- Carpets with turned up edges, or severely worn areas
- Extension cords or other cables and cords
- All areas that have become wet from rain or snow, or are icy

#### **2. Playgrounds - 25%**

Safe playgrounds are of utmost importance to a school district but also for you as an outdoor supervisor. Things to look for may be:

- Well maintained equipment
- Documented periodic inspections of outdoor equipment
- Shock absorbent ground material to reduce injury
- Good supervision
- Monitoring of play activity
- Rules
- Age appropriate equipment

#### **3. Gym Class - 12%**

The nature of physical education classes lends itself to possible injury. Monitoring, adequate supervision, enforced rules, safe equipment is key.

#### **4. Industrial Arts - 8%**

The trend to move from traditional shop classes to the tech-ed approach has lessened the number of accidents simply because there is less exposure to hazardous materials and equipment. To avoid mishaps choose to:

- Teach and enforce safety rules
- Utilize and maintain safety guards on equipment
- Keep the area clean and free of debris
- Good supervision

#### **5. Science Labs - 6%**

- Inform students of chemicals and the hazardous properties they contain
- Properly dispose of outdated or unusable chemicals
- Maintain neat, orderly work and storage areas
- Clearly identify all chemicals
- Ensure that emergency equipment is accessible and maintained
- Teach and re-teach safety rules and proper behavior
- Ensure the use of personal protective equipment

Nine percent accounts for all other types of school injury. Enforced rules and good supervision is key.