

# Navigating the Hazards of Slip and Fall Accidents

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## Bad Luck or Negligence? Understanding Slip and Fall Accidents

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When walking on city sidewalks, through government property, or in commercial buildings, you have a right to expect the surfaces to be safe.

Slip and fall accidents can happen because of your carelessness or bad coincidence, but they're often caused by a property owner's negligence. Falls can cause severe and painful injuries with life changing implications. If you or a loved one is injured in a slip and fall accident, it's important to contact a St. Louis personal injury attorney immediately.

"Slip and fall" is a personal injury term used to describe a situation in which a person gets hurt by slipping or tripping, and falling while on someone else's property.

Slip and fall cases are also called "premises liability" cases, because these accidents happen on someone else's "premises" (property). The property owner may be legally responsible if a slip and fall accident occurs as a result of the owner's negligence in creating or allowing a hazard to exist.

It is the duty of the property owner to remove or fix hazards like slippery floors, uneven walking surfaces, broken steps, icy or snowy walkways, dangerous debris, and other risk factors before innocent pedestrians have a chance to encounter these dangers. If the hazard can't be removed, the fix may be as simple as warning of it or blocking off the area until a solution is found.

## Could the Accident Have Been Prevented?

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A common misconception about slip and fall injuries is that the property owner is always liable. This is not necessarily true.

A dangerous condition is a defect creating a substantial risk of injury when premises are used in a reasonably foreseeable manner. Additionally, you must establish that the property owner was aware of the dangerous condition by showing that the owner created the condition, knew of the condition but negligently failed to fix it, or the condition existed for a long enough time prior to your accident that the owner should have discovered and remedied it. One key question to ask is, “Could the accident have been prevented?” If there was no reasonable way for the property owner to have known about the hazard – a liquid gets spill right before the fall for example—there is likely no liability.

However, our investigations often reveal that the property owner should have known about the hazard. For example, in early 2015 we represented a client who was injured inside a casino. The man tripped on the edge of a floor tile that bordered a carpeted area that had worn down over time. The casino claimed no knowledge of this hazard or any previous injuries because of it.

We discovered that another woman had fallen in the same vicinity years before our client and reported to casino officials that the area was dangerous. This testimony proved that the property owner should have been aware of the danger and taken appropriate steps to fix it. Our client received a judgment of \$40,000 for his case.

## Proving Fault in a Slip & Fall Case

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It may be difficult to prove who was responsible for your slip and fall injury. If the accident occurred due to a “dangerous condition,” however, you may be able to recover your losses from the owner or manager of the property.

A qualified personal injury attorney will investigate your accident and help build your premise liability case and identify the responsible parties whose negligence resulted in your slip and fall accident.

## Snow and Ice Increase Slip and Fall Risk

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Winter weather poses a natural increase in slip and fall risks, but it can be tricky to determine if a property owner is liable. If there is ice and snow around, the best advice is to take it slow. If you have been hurt as the result of a fall, contact the St. Louis slip and fall lawyers at The S.E. Farris Law Firm to help determine if you have a personal injury claim.

## What to do after Your Slip & Fall Accident

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In the event of a slip and fall accident, seek medical treatment for any injuries immediately—the most important thing is your personal health and safety!

Most folks are embarrassed after falling, and just want to get up and away from the area. It is important to gather contact information from witnesses. Photographs are a great way to document the dangerous condition that caused your injury. Once you fall, it is reasonable to expect the owner to fix the hazard, and photo opportunities will be gone.

If you have suffered injuries from a slip and fall, contact a St. Louis personal injury attorney as soon as possible. Your attorney will begin an immediate investigation into the case by collecting evidence, consulting with witnesses, and consulting experts to prove your case.

## Contact a St. Louis Personal Injury Attorney

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The St. Louis Personal Injury Lawyers at **The S.E. Farris Law Firm** are experienced in slip and fall accidents and premise liability cases. We will fight to get the compensation you deserve for your medical expenses, pain and suffering, lost wages, long-term care, and future medical needs.

Call **314-A-LAWYER** (314-252-9937) today for a free consultation, or submit details for a free case evaluation at **[www.farrislaw.net](http://www.farrislaw.net)**. The time to pursue a claim against a negligent party in a slip and fall case is limited. It is important to contact an experienced Missouri personal injury attorney as soon as possible so that your rights are protected, and so an investigation into the circumstances surrounding your accident can be conducted.

While we hope this information is helpful and informative, it should not be considered a substitute for legal advice. The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely on advertisements. Please contact us for a free consultation on your injury claim - there is never a fee unless we collect money for you.