Lessons Learned: Employee Slipped and Fell On Ice Rink

An employee needed to move the hockey nets for the Zamboni driver to clean the ice surface. While walking on the rink’s ice surface the employee slipped and fell. As a result of the fall, the employee’s head contacted the ice causing the employee to lose consciousness and receive a laceration to the back of their head. The injuries sustained required medical treatment.

At the time of the incident, wearing ice cleats was a common practice, but was not mandatory by rink management. It is now required for all employees who walk on the ice to wear ice cleats.

Although you may not work at an ice rink consider safety controls and practices in your facility that may be overlooked or inconsistent. Remember it takes just one time. Safety controls and processes should always be evaluated prior to starting a new task and re-evaluated periodically to ensure they eliminate or minimize risk to an acceptable level.

To prevent similar incidents in the future, employees should:

- Wear ice cleats or ice skates.
- Challenge the status quo.
- Periodically evaluate your work tasks to determine if there is a safer more efficient way to perform the task.
- If you see ice or snow on the roadway, sidewalk, or trail walk like a penguin

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