Footwear and Personal Preparedness – School Safety Stats and Facts



FACTS

1. **Inadequate Footwear:** Wearing shoes that lack proper support or slip resistance can lead to slips, trips, and falls, especially in areas prone to wet or uneven surfaces.
2. **Lack of Emergency Preparedness:** Students and staff unprepared for emergencies may face increased risks during incidents such as evacuations or lockdowns.
3. **Cluttered Walkways:** Obstructed pathways can cause trips and impede quick evacuations during emergencies.
4. **Poor Lighting:** Insufficient lighting in hallways and stairwells can conceal hazards, increasing the likelihood of accidents.
5. **Seasonal Hazards:** Weather conditions like snow and ice can create slippery surfaces, necessitating appropriate footwear and preparedness measures.
6. **Uneven Flooring:** Unmaintained floors, such as cracked tiles or loose carpeting, require durable and protective footwear to minimize injuries.

STATS

- **Slip-and-Fall Injuries in Canada:** In 2020–2021, 162,222 slip-and-fall injuries were reported, with nearly 60% requiring hospitalization, underscoring the importance of proper footwear in reducing such incidents.
- **Occupational Foot Injuries in Canada:** Over 20,000 workplace foot injuries are reported annually, many of which could be prevented by using protective footwear.
- **School Employee Injuries in the USA:** Slips and trips are among the top three causes of injuries for school staff, often linked to improper footwear or walkway obstructions.
- **Winter Hazard Incidents in Canada:** In regions with heavy snowfall, the risk of slipping increases by 30%, particularly in schools, where snow is frequently tracked indoors.
- **Emergency Preparedness Gap in Canada:** Only 27% of Canadians report taking the necessary steps for personal emergency preparedness, reflecting gaps that could extend to school safety.
- **Student Accident Trends**: A 2022 U.S. study found that improper footwear contributed to 35% of reported student accidents in physical education and outdoor activities.