



A Five-minute Training Series for Pest Management Professionals

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The Top 5 Causes of Injury in Pest Control

| Top 5 Causes of Work Injury in 2017 for PestSure Group | | |
|--|-------------|-------------------------|
| Cause | Claim Count | Average Cost Per Injury |
| Slip, Trip, Fall during service work | 75 | see below |
| Collision with Another Vehicle | 48 | \$14,982 |
| Bitten by animal | 30 | \$1,411 |
| Bending | 21 | \$6,088 |
| Twisting | 19 | \$2,419 |
| Slip, Trip, Fall breakdown | | |
| | Claim Count | Average Cost Per Injury |
| Fall, Slip or Trip | 21 | \$8,587 |
| Fall/Slip into Openings | 13 | \$9,806 |
| Fall/Slip From a Different Level | 13 | \$26,119 |
| Fall On the Same Level | 11 | \$8,705 |
| Fall/Slip on Stairs | 10 | \$8,133 |
| Fall/Slip on Ice or Snow | 7 | \$16,616 |
| | 75 | |

OSHA states that slips, trips, and falls constitute the majority of general industry accidents, cause 15 percent of all accidental deaths, and are second only to motor vehicle accidents as a cause of fatalities. If you work in pest control, you will be interested to know that the most likely cause of injury for you on the job is a slip or trip and fall while walking around doing service work. We had 75 such incidents in the program in 2017 that were serious enough injuries to warrant medical care. Some of the injured missed time from work or had lasting physical restrictions. The breakdown of these 75 slip, trip and fall incidents are listed in the second table.

The chart to the left lists the top 5 injury causes in pest control in 2017 for 12,800 employees. In addition, this chart tells you the average cost of injury by cause and the number we had through November of this year.

A slip or trip that causes a fall on a customer location can be very debilitating. If you are wearing a backpack sprayer, the extra weight of it will increase the likelihood of an injury. If you fall when your hands are full, you are unable to break your fall and could be more severely injured by falling on the equipment you are carrying. The good news is that with some pre-planning and a quick assessment of the worksite on arrival you can be alert to many slip or trip hazards. By simply taking a quick survey of your surroundings before beginning your service you can note uneven ground, obstacles that are in your path of travel, slippery footing areas, inclines or level changes. This assessment will help keep you upright and on your feet as you complete your work.

The majority of our **auto accidents (2nd highest number of injuries)** involve a pest control driver running into the back of the vehicle in front of them or being hit from behind (rear-end collision). Because these accidents are preventable and within your control, it is useful for you to know this is a common injury in your job. Increasing your follow distance and maintaining the posted speed limits while staying focused on the drive is your best defense to avoid these incidents. The same positive driving habits that keep you from running into the back of another vehicle will make it less likely that you will be hit from behind.

- Increase your space to the front to avoid hitting the car in front of you and to give yourself time to alert the driver behind you when you need to stop.
- Control your speed to avoid situations where you don't have the time to properly assess and react to changing traffic situations.
- Develop and utilize a scanning pattern. Scan your zones to the front and include a mirror check to be aware of what is going on all around your vehicle.
- Be sure to check your farthest zone (as far as you can see ahead) frequently so you are aware of any approaching hazards or traffic flow changes.
- Adjust your space to the front of your vehicle when pulling a trailer or navigating in weather conditions that hamper visibility and/or traction.

