

LESSONS LEARNED FROM LOSSES

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THE IMPORTANCE OF INSPECTIONS



In order to ensure that observations are reported, corrected and documented, please consider the following suggestions:

- A system of regular inspections and observations
- Training for employees to identify potential hazards
- Procedures for employees and citizens to report potential hazards
- Procedures to log all reports and record corrective actions
- Procedures to notify other entities/authorities of conditions and/or incidents that require attention
- Procedures to investigate incidents and accidents

Example: Claimant tripped and fell on raised sidewalk in a park and suffered serious injuries with several surgeries. The member municipality had utilized a landscaping company for spring cleanup, mulching, mowing and leaf cleanup in the area, but the municipality planted flowers, installed flags and maintained the sprinkler system. Valves for the sprinklers are in the area of the dangerous condition. Images from Google Maps showed the sidewalk in the same condition as the date of loss 4 years later. No liability could be attributed to the landscaping company. Both the presiding Judge and retired Judge acting as arbitrator believe that the municipality had or should have had actual or constructive notice of this dangerous condition. This claim was settled at a “favorable” amount of \$160,000 and could have been avoided if employees working near the area would have recognized the dangerous condition, reported it and repairs were completed.