

WASHINGTON HOSPITAL SERVICES NEWSLETTER

December 2018

ANNOUNCEMENT

Please help us welcome our new Safety Program Coordinator, Eric Gutzwiler.

Eric is a dynamic trainer and he is excited to meet each hospital member and act as a resource in the areas of employee safety, OSHA compliance, training, safety fairs, onsite assessments & investigations.

Eric will be scheduling a time to visit with each member hospital fairly soon.



CLAIM MANAGEMENT TIPS: PARKING LOT INJURIES

Parking lots can be dangerous places, especially during the winter season when it is dark on our arrival to work and departure from work. In some areas around Washington (some more than others) will have extreme occurrences of ice and snow.

In general, workers reporting for work at the beginning of their shifts and leaving at the end of their shifts would not be covered for injuries in parking areas. However, current Board decisions have changed how we adjudicate these claims.

A worker may be covered under certain circumstances while walking from an employee designated parking area to the job site if the route exposes the worker to hazards not commonly shared by the general public (*Hamilton v. Dept. of L&I*). Or the worker is acting in the furtherance of the employer's business when required to park in an employee-designated parking lot, subject to disciplinary action for non-compliance.

Furthermore, the worker is covered within a company-controlled area, except a parking area, while reporting to or leaving work. This may include immediately before or after a time clock has been punched. Workers who must report prior to their shift to change into uniforms or clothing required by the job are considered covered because these actions further the interests of the employer. (*Gordon v. Arden Farms*)

Here are a few questions that should be clarified before making a determination on a parking lot injury:

- *What did the worker indicate as the time of injury and work shift?*
- *Why was the worker in a parking area at the time of injury?*
- *Where is the parking area in relation to the jobsite and injury location?*

In order to help adjudicate the claim, we would request that the employer provide the following along with the initial paperwork:

- Detailed map of area where the injury occurred
- Pictures of the area where the injury occurred with X to mark the spot

Yes, parking lot injuries do occur and more so during the winter season. So how do we prevent parking lot injuries?

- When walking in a parking lot, stay to the sides of the aisles and watch for cars.
- Do not talk on the phone or use headphones in a parking lot.
- Wear boots or shoes with nonslip soles and good ankle support. If necessary, carry your work shoes with you and change inside.
- When walking in an icy lot (or any lot for that matter) make eye contact with an approaching driver. Stop if you don't think the driver has seen you.
- Snowdrifts can prevent drivers from seeing traffic signs and crosswalks. Don't take shortcuts over snow drifts or plowed snow.