

SONOCO *Near Miss!*



Date: December 8, 2020

Activity: Wet Floor Safety

What Happened:

On a location, our team had just waxed a stairwell and the landings. A “wet floor” sign was posted at the door’s entrance and a sign on the door notified that there was fresh wax on the floor. There are multiple interior stairwells on this location available to use.

A customer’s crew member came hustling through the door and slipped on the wet floor. He would have fallen had he not grabbed the handrail on the wall and pulled himself upright. Once he gained his balance, he turned around and went back the way he came. Our team cleaned and re-waxed the damaged floor area.

Why it Happened:

- Carelessness
- Employee in a hurry, taking a shortcut
- Lack of awareness of surroundings

Typical Hazards:

- Slipping due to wet floor
- Potential for back or other injury
- **Corrective Actions:**
- A meeting was held with leadership to explain the situation. He thought that it should be brought up at the next morning Safety meeting, which it was.
- A suggestion from a crew member was that the area be not just indicated by signs, but that some sort of barrier be provided. A policy was established to allow roping off any area being waxed to prevent intrusion and possible injury.
- Additionally, because the waxing process is typically scheduled, it would be reported in the safety meetings and this would allow everyone the opportunity to have input if it would



interfere with other operations. If not, it would proceed without interference or interruption.