

For further information contact:
Professional Insurance Agents of Wisconsin
6401 Odana Road
Madison, WI 53179
ATTN: Ron Von Haden
Phone: (800) 261-7429
www.piaaw.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Motor Vehicle Accidents Aren't the Biggest Risk to Company Drivers

MADISON, Wisconsin (April 10, 2006) – Companies with fleet vehicles may assume the primary risk to the safety of their drivers is motor vehicle crashes. However, slips and falls actually cause about 22 percent of driver injuries.

“Surprisingly, slips and falls are the most common type of on-the-job accident when employees are using company cars, vans or trucks,” says Ron Von Haden, CIC, Executive Vice President of the Professional Insurance Agents of Wisconsin (PIAW). “Typically, drivers are at risk for this type of injury when they are getting in and out of the vehicle and loading and unloading product or simply walking around the parking area of a customer’s business.”

To prevent these types of injuries, business owners should develop guidelines for the drivers that will help them reduce the risk of injury on the job. For instance, van and truck drivers shouldn’t jump from the vehicle or trailer. They should climb out the same way they entered. They should also always have three points of contact with the vehicle, minimizing the risk of falling.

Drivers that deliver products should always use a hand cart for large packages that may obstruct their view. They should also survey the walking surface for any holes, raised surfaces, or slippery areas that could cause problems. Drivers should also wear proper footwear with plenty of traction to prevent slips, use railings when appropriate and check to see if a surface is wet or icy before stepping up or onto it.

“Companies may be able to lower their insurance rates by sending their drivers through proper training,” says Von Haden. “Some insurance companies may even provide the training for you.

It is also a good idea to review your company's insurance policy with your professional independent agent annually. This will help ensure that you have the right amount and kind of insurance to fully protect your business and employees."

To locate a PIA member near you, look for the PIA logo or go to www.PIAW.org.

#