



Curatorial Safety

Safe Walkways During Inclement Weather

Among other tasks, your park's opening procedures should include an inspection of sidewalks, stairs, and other exterior walkways used by visitors and staff. During times of inclement weather, it is vital to ensure that all walkways are kept clear of ice, snow, mud, water, or other hazards that frequently occur. This is especially true of visitor foot traffic routes outside the museum or visitor center, as well as outside of or between historic structures. Staff and visitors can easily track mud and water inside the building, onto porches and exterior stairs, or turn unpaved trails between buildings into a muddy, slippery mess. Such conditions can easily cause someone to fall and become injured, possibly severely. If staff members are moving museum collection items, they might injure both themselves and the collections.

Sometimes stairways and porches in areas prone to wet, slick conditions are treated with non-skid material for safety. (If your park plans to use such material on historic structures, you may need to initiate the Section 106 process. Consult your park's resource management staff and/or Regional Historical Architect.) Discuss options with your maintenance staff, Safety Officer, Chief Ranger, resource management staff, and others to find the best solution to keep everyone safely on their feet throughout the year, and remember to keep abreast of conditions during inclement weather.