



## HEALTH AND SAFETY ALERT

### Fall from stairs

#### Who needs to read this?

All Curtin University Staff and Students

#### Incident Details

In a recent incident one of our staff members was distracted whilst descending the last 2 steps of the stairway. Our colleague fell from the second bottom step onto the floor. This resulted in a fractured left arm and other painful injuries.

#### Investigation Results

In this instance the fall was captured on closed circuit television (CCTV). The footage demonstrates that there was adequate natural and artificial light over the stairway at the time of the incident and nor were there any issues with the stairway itself. There were also no other environmental factors that may have contributed to the incident. Our staff member was wearing suitable clothing and shoes and was not wearing glasses that may have altered his depth perception.

#### Recommendations

When using stairways it is essential that people:

1. Walk to the left side and use the handrail
2. Wear suitable shoes with non-slip soles
3. Consider replacing bi or multifocal glasses with single vision glasses for outdoor use under the direction of your optometrist.
4. Concentrate on their foot placement on each step and use the whole step width while using the stairway
5. Ascend or descend 1 step at a time – don't miss steps & don't rush
6. Avoid distractions such as conversations with colleagues, phone-calls/texts etc



# HEALTH AND SAFETY

Promoting a safer place to work and study

7. Use the lift or trolleys if moving loads between building levels, rather than carrying loads up or downstairs

## Who do you call with questions?

If you have any queries, please contact Health and Safety on 9266 4900 or email [healthandsafety@curtin.edu.au](mailto:healthandsafety@curtin.edu.au).

## References

[Slips and trips factsheet](#) – Safe Work Australia

Prevent slips and trips – [Workplace Kit](#) – Worksafe WA

## Date of Issue

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