**Avoid Slip and Fall Accidents When Shopping During the Holiday Season**

The holiday season is the most exciting time of the year – everyone is enjoying their vacations and taking advantage of the discounts and deals during their shopping spree. However, this time of the year can be particularly dangerous as well. Big and small stores store alike are crowded with customers, leaving such establishments understaffed or with temporary workers who have inadequate experience. In addition, due to high demand, shelves are jam-packed with products to cater to the customers’ need, causing the aisles to become cluttered. Injuries during shopping in retail stores increase dramatically during the holiday season. They can range from minor scratches, tripping, or falling over to broken bones and serious back and head injuries.

**Hazardous Conditions in Retail Stores during the Holiday Season**

The holiday season is the busiest time of the year for retail stores and shopping malls, with crowds filling in their carts with discounted merchandise on Black Friday to people shopping at the last moment on Christmas Eve. Such stores become the breeding ground for slip and fall accidents, as the increase in the number of customers, shortage of staff, and lack of maintenance lead to several types of hazardous conditions, such as:

* Falling inside the store or on sidewalks due to build up of snow or ice, or failure to put up warning signs about the dangerous condition.
* Incidents involving shoving or trampling as customers try to get their hands on the bargains and deals, due to store’s inability to take measures for proper crowd control.
* Failure to clear debris in walkways or cluttered aisle space due to frenzied shoppers or excess inventory can lead to tripping and falling.
* Failure to actively remove or clean snow or melted ice inside the store, making the floors wet and slippery and highly dangerous for customers.
* Pedestrians are at an elevated risk of getting hit in overcrowded parking lots by cars.
* Failure to maintain adequate security to keep the customers safe from opportunistic criminals who may steal from them and push other customers while running away, causing injuries.

Overall, retail stores present a chaotic scene during the holiday season, and it is advised that you remain vigilant of your surroundings to stay safe while shopping, especially in crowded stores.

**Who can be Held Liable for your Injuries?**

Property owners have a duty to make the premises safe and free of hazards for customers, visitors, and shoppers. However, accidents happen, and if you have been injured due to hazardous conditions within a retail store or shopping mall that can be attributed to negligence on part of the property owner, you can hold them liable for your damages.

It is critical that you gather evidence, like pictures, video, statement of witnesses, and others from the surrounding environment to support your claim. Moreover, get medical attention immediately, even if the injury doesn’t seem severe at that time. Lastly, consult an experienced and reliable [slip and fall attorney](http://www.covonelaw.com/areas-of-practice/slip-and-fall/) who can help you understand your rights and fight to help you recover damages. [Contact](http://www.covonelaw.com/contact-us/) Mary Ann Covone, P.C., Attorney at Law at 708-246-4911 today to schedule a free consultation.

We wish you and your family a happy and safe holiday season!