



Risk Management *Tips*

Stopping Finger Entrapments at the Door

At Markel, we continue to see finger-pinch and entrapment injuries involving doorways. Understanding the root causes of these accidents may help eliminate them. Of the claims reported from January 2009 through August 2010, approximately 64 percent involved children two years of age, and 27 percent involved children 3-5 years of age. Fifty-five percent of these losses occurred at the hinge side of the door, while 36 percent involved children pushing the door closed on another child's finger.

Staff awareness and supervision are instrumental to preventing finger entrapments. Use the statistics above to educate caregivers on where these accidents occur. Other steps to help reduce doorway finger-pinch and entrapment injuries include:

- Install finger entrapment guards and door closers to control how fast a door closes. Pneumatic door closers should be appropriate for the door size and weight, allow for the door to close slowly, and offer resistance to prevent another child from pushing it closed. Check door closers quarterly and make adjustments according to the manufacturer's guidelines.
- Design a door safety zone. Start with the door closed. As you open it, trace the door-swing area until the door is completely open. Then measure outward at least another three inches. Highlight the door-swing area with skid-resistant, yellow hazard paint or some other distinguishing surface. Once a child enters this area, you can quickly recognize the potential hazard and remove the child safely.
- Inspect door and panic bar hardware daily. Make sure hinges and doorknobs are securely fastened and attachment screws are flush. Check the panic bar hardware to ensure protective caps are in place. Replace any defective hardware immediately.



If you have a safety or risk management question or a suggestion for a topic, please contact Markel's Risk Management Department at safety1st@markelcorp.com.