

Jessica Richards
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Contact Info: gzqp@iup.edu (724) 963-9640

Walk to Class At Your Own Risk: IUP Ice and Snow Removal

By: Jessica Richards

In the wintertime at IUP, icy sidewalks are a concern for many students.

Sidewalks are often not cleared, leaving students to walk to class in hopes that they don't fall and get hurt on their way.

IUP's grounds crew contains 15 people, 12 of whom are equipment operators responsible for snow and ice removal, according to the university's [website](#).

[<http://www.iup.edu/page.aspx?id=70387>]

IUP junior Lauren Kaiser has had her own share of battles with IUP's icy sidewalks. She fell twice this winter season and at least two other times since she started at IUP.

"IUP does not maintain the sidewalks well *at all!*," said Kaiser in a March 16 interview. "The Oak Grove is the worst. I walk through there every morning on my way to class and the entire thing is a sheet of ice. There's no walking around it at all. I think IUP needs more people on their crew or better equipment or something. I'm sick of worrying about my safety on the way to class, it's ridiculous."

Malinda Cowles, associate director at the Center for Health and Well-Being, said in a March 25 e-mail interview that the health center does not have incidents classified in a way that would identify snow and ice-related injuries.

"We would know how many people were seen for an injury but not why they were injured," said Cowles. "However, I do know that I've personally seen at least a few students come in for a snow or ice-related injury."

More than 30 ice and snow-related injuries have been reported to the university by students in the last six years according to the safety officer for the IUP Environmental Health and Safety Department, Frank Carrozza,

"From Dec. 1 through March 30 of this year, I have received 11 student injury reports involving slips and falls on snow or ice. I'm sure more falls occurred, but people only have a tendency to turn in reports if there was an injury," said Frank Carrozza in a March 25 e-mail.

When IUP junior Kali Aloia heard these statistics she wasn't surprised.

"I'm not shocked that so many students have gotten injured," said Aloia. "I actually am surprised that number is not higher. It probably is because I know I've fallen myself but I didn't take the time to report it. This makes you wonder how many students actually have suffered injuries from falling on ice," said Aloia in a March 26 interview.

When I tried to contact IUP's grounds crew about their snow and ice removal procedures I did not get a response to my e-mail. It seems though that students overall would like to see improvements in the way snow and ice-covered sidewalks are taken care of at IUP.

Jessica Richards is a junior journalism major from Perryopolis, Pa.

Graphic Elements: Photo of Lauren Kaiser or photo of her scrapped up knee she received from falling on ice at IUP

For more information on this story contact the following sources:

Frank V. Carozza: Safety Officer at the [Environmental Health and Safety Department](http://www.iup.edu/page.aspx?id=71787) [http://www.iup.edu/page.aspx?id=71787]

Sutton Hall, Room 423
1011 South Drive
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Indiana, PA 15705

(724) 357-4057
Frank.carrozza@iup.edu

IUP [Office of Facilities Management](http://www.iup.edu/page.aspx?id=70387) [http://www.iup.edu/page.aspx?id=70387]
Robertshaw Building
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Indiana, PA 15705
(724) 357-2172