

# **National Safety Stand – Down**

## **To Prevent Injuries from Falls**

### **Public Safety**

The Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) has announced May 2-6, 2016, as the official week for the third annual National Safety Stand Down. The event is a nationwide effort to remind and educate employers and workers of the serious dangers of falls that remain the leading cause of lost work-days and fatal injuries. Employers and workers are encouraged to pause during their workday for topic discussions, demonstrations and training on how to recognize hazards and prevent falls.

Villanova University participated in this initiative in 2014, and we're proud of the Certificate presented to us by OSHA. This year OSHA expects thousands of employers and possibly as many as four million workers to participate in the Stand Down.

The National Safety Stand Down in 2016 is part of the University's ongoing Fall Prevention Campaign, which provides employees with information and educational materials on how to prevent falls, provide the right equipment for our employees and train all employees on its proper use. Some of the initiatives the University will implement include:

- The release and implementation of a comprehensive Fall Protection Policy.
- Conducting Tool Box Talks by members of the Employee Safety Committee.
- University involvement in the OSHA initiative.
- Providing training for employees directly affected by fall potential, and education for the remaining staff.



Public Safety Officers, like many University employees, are at risk for sustaining a slip, trip and fall accident. Insufficient lighting, failure to place proper warning signs, and many other types of hazards could result in serious injury or death.

Falls are one of the most common types of injury accidents for Officers. The most common injuries sustained in these types of accidents involve bruised or broken bones, neck or back injuries, and traumatic head injuries.

I encourage everyone in the department to always be vigilant about avoiding the hazards that could result in a slip, trip or fall.