# A screen shot of a computer  Description automatically generatedParking lot safety

A substantial number of workplace injuries occur in parking lots. Parking lot safety is something that may be commonly overlooked but poses its own unique set of risks. With a constant flow of pedestrians and vehicles, a focus on safety in this area is essential.

* **General Awareness**

Individual safety is something that should be taken into account any time an employee walks outside the store. It is important to scan the parking lot for threats and avoid secluded areas or areas beyond the sightline of other employees and patrons. Ensure you stay in well-lit portions of the parking lot if out at night and report any areas with poor illumination or burnt out lights. Above all, be aware of your surroundings at all times.

* **Vehicle Hazards**

When walking through the parking lot always look for entering/exiting vehicles and check your surroundings. Do not assume you can be seen by a driver and give ample room to anyone entering/exiting a parking space. Stay in designated walk areas when possible. When not possible, cross through the parking lot at points that typically have less vehicle traffic.

* **Slip/Trip/Fall Hazards**

Parking lots should be maintained and kept in good condition to avoid creating tripping issues from cracks or holes. Any raised trip hazards such as curbs or speed bumps should be kept visible with paint. These areas should be reported when in need of repair. Follow set procedures to deal with snow removal such as salting or shoveling. Wear appropriate footwear such as flat shoes, with a closed toe and sole that has good grip. Ensure matting is kept clean and in good condition. Keep parking lot clear of debris and trash.

* **Strain**

When gathering trash or carrying large, awkward items to the dumpster, do so with the assistance of a cart. When necessary, use proper lifting techniques and keep items close to the body when lifting and carrying in order to reduce stress to the back. Also when possible, practice team lifting with another employee to avoid strain.

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