Event:

A significant injury occurred to a member of our campus community while they were accessing a -80°C freezer. Due to the freezer being open for an extended period of time, frost from the door and on the contents within the freezer fell to the floor, melted, and created an accumulation of water. The individual slipped on the water, fell, and sustained a significant injury.

Corrective recommendations:

1. Anti-slip mats which have been approved by Custodial Services be placed in the immediate area of the freezer to limit the contact between footwear and water which may accumulate from melting frost. Matting should be conducive to the use of carts and foot stools. The following is a link to a local safety supply company which has anti-slip mats. [https://www.acklandsgrainger.com/AGIPortalWeb/WebSource/Main/globalSearch.do?%7BglobalApp.quickSearchSearchType%7D=&%7BglobalApp.quickSearchCriteria%7D=anti-slip+matting](https://www.acklandsgrainger.com/AGIPortalWeb/WebSource/Main/globalSearch.do?%7BglobalApp.quickSearchSearchType%7D=&%7BglobalApp.quickSearchCriteria%7D=anti-slip+matting)

2. A mop is placed near -80°C freezers to mop up any water which may accumulate on the floor.

3. This safety advisory be distributed alerting others who access/operate -80°C freezers regarding the details of this incident.

4. To reduce clutter and the amount of time the door must remain open, materials that do not belong or are redundant are removed from the freezer and appropriately discarded.

5. A freezer specific procedure be developed to allow for the safe manual removal of excess frost that accumulates and interferes with a proper door seal. The safe work procedure must address hazards such as water accumulation, thermal burns and adequate temperature regulation for sample integrity.

Please remember to communicate this information to all personnel using -80°C freezers.