During calendar year 2016 there were 109 accident reports filed. Five were the result of medical conditions unrelated to work and 104 resulted in worker compensation claims, an increase of 23.8% compared to 2015 totals, as illustrated in Figure 1. Total incurred costs (which includes medical and wage loss expenses that have already been paid out to date and reserves) is $760,634. The 2016 incurred total includes $510,210 being held in reserves for 35 open claims. Of the 104 claims filed 13 of the claims were classified as serious.

Figure 2 is a breakdown of the accidents that occurred by type, total costs, and serious claims, defined as single claims that involved an incurred costs of over $5,000. Serious claims comprised 12.5% of the number of accident claims. These serious claims accounted for just over 89.5% of the incurred cost of all claims filed. The incurred costs include a large reserve being held on the 12 serious claims that are still open. Accidents involving motor vehicles accounted for 45.5% of the total incurred cost, the slips, trips and falls category accounted for another 25.4%.

Figure 3, on the following page, shows the number of accidents compared to the serious accident and the percentages of incurred cost for the past five years.
Figure 4 presents a breakdown of incurred costs by part of body injured. The cost in body systems and multiple injury is in part due to the motor vehicle accidents. The incurred cost of knee, foot, wrist and shoulder injuries reported remained high for the university.
Figure 5
Number of Claims 2016

Figure 5 portrays the number of claims and claim costs associated with the major contributing factor attributed to each accident (upper graph) and the general job type of the employee injured (lower graph). Second only to motor vehicles accidents (“other”), the walking surfaces category had the highest claims cost contributions. “Walking surfaces” does not include injuries determined to have occurred primarily due to icy surfaces. Again this year, office workers accounted for the highest cost by general job type. Descriptions of more serious claims, represented by the red bars on these graphs, may be found on the following page.
The total costs associated with the 13 serious claims amounted to just over $680,700, over 89.5% of the total cost of all claims filed. Incurred totals include $489,871 being held in reserve for 12 of the serious claims that are still open.

The two serious claims with the highest incurred cost were motor vehicle accidents, involving employees traveling on University of Idaho business. The combined total cost was $345,282, amounting to 45.4% of total incurred costs.

A claimant descending stairs while carrying packages fell at the bottom of stairs and injured their leg: $71,863

Lifting an item with his supervisor, an employee caught the tip of the pinky finger between the handle and the pallet. The ensuing infection required the removal of the fingertip: $49,466.

An employee was repairing a leak in a tight spot under a water heater when they applied force from an awkward angle straining the right shoulder and upper arm area: $47,527.

A slip and fall on ice injured an employee’s left knee. The injury was compounded three days later when the employee was stepping down from a vehicle and slipped again twisting the same knee: $42,471.

Returning to the base of operations in a prescribed burn area while carrying their gear, an employee tripped, fell and broke a wrist: $31,650.

Working in a wilderness area an employee contracted a viral infection called Colorado Tick Fever from tick bites: $29,997.

An employee struck their head on an unmarked floor to ceiling glass panel next to a door way. The impact resulted in a detached retina: $20,578.

A partial collapsed gravel hiking trail caused an employee to fall, resulting in a torn meniscus: $13,776.

Partial blockage of the esophagus by a piece of food required an employee, who was attending a UI social function, to seek medical attention at Gritman ER and have the blockage removed: $13,580.

Retrieving items from the top shelf in a storage facility, an employee fell four feet off a ladder and onto a lawnmower resulting in multiple contusions: $9,085.

Assisting students during a beef fitting & showing event, an employee climbed over a fence to leave, slipped and jammed their knee: $5,425.
The Unit Safety Program organizational units were used to track the University of Idaho’s workers’ compensation claim experience during calendar year 2016. The eight organizational units that experienced over $10,000 in total incurred costs are presented below in Figure 6. The bars represent the claims cost and hours worked for each unit as percentages of the total incurred cost and total number of hours worked by university employees.

![Figure 6](image_url)

**Figure 6**

**Unit Breakdown**

*(Units with > $10,000 in total claim costs)*

*Number of serious claims are highlighted in red*

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**Summary**

The preceding data shows an increase in the number of accidents in the 2016 calendar year and an increase in the incurred costs. Two of the more serious accidents accounted for most of the cost increase. The total incurred cost given of $760,634 includes $510,210 being held in reserve that should be considered spent.

Inattention to walking surfaces and weather conditions continue to keep the “Slip, Trip and Fall” category as one of the top causes of injury. This risk is shared by all employees at the University of Idaho both on campus and in the field.