March 2009
Effects of the Sun

Slip and fall incidents become increasingly rare as winter evolves into spring. It is also more challenging in that season to prove or disprove that the weather was at fault.

The AccuWeather.com Forensics Team was called upon by a Defendant's counsel to investigate weather conditions that may have contributed to a slip and fall incident. The fall occurred on a paved area during the late afternoon hours during the middle of March.

The AccuWeather.com Forensics Team found that it had rained enough the day before the incident to form puddles. Temperatures also did drop below freezing the night before the incident, as testified to by the Plaintiff. However, a thorough examination of applicable meteorological observations found that the day of the incident had featured strong March sunshine and air temperatures sufficient to warm exposed surfaces well above the freezing mark by the time of the incident. In the scientific opinion of the AccuWeather.com Forensics Team, any icy patches that existed at the start of the daylight hours and were exposed to the sunshine would have melted prior to the incident. Even in shaded areas, a gusty wind and air temperatures well above freezing during much of the daylight hours would have melted patches of ice by the time of the incident, despite testimony by the Plaintiff that ice was present at the time of the fall.

This proceeding provides an excellent example of the types of cases in which the AccuWeather Forensics department has the experience and expertise to determine what took place meteorologically at any given time and place. Contact us today at 814-235-8626 for more information.