Slips, Trips, & Falls

Awareness and Prevention
Slips, Trips, & Falls

Take measures to prevent slips, trips, and falls
Slipping and tripping can lead to falling, which results in injury and losses

A fall can be:
- At the same level (e.g. slipping on a wet floor)
- or -
- From one level to another (e.g. fall from a roof)
## Injury & Losses

### The Victim Can Experience
- Pain
- Lost wages
- Disability
- Reduced quality of life
- Depression
- Death

### Employer Losses
- Lost productivity
- Increased insurance premiums
- New labor training expenses
- Low morale

Slips, trips, & falls are the **SECOND LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH** in the workplace & account for ~25% of reported claims per fiscal year (U.S. DOL)

**Address the causes to prevent the injuries & losses**
Some Slip Hazards

Working surfaces can be slippery if they are:

- Wet
- Oily
- Dusty
- Icy
- Loose

*e.g.* loose floor tiles

Your work area should be inspected each day prior to beginning your work to identify & mitigate any hazards.
Additional Slip Hazards

Smooth surfaces (e.g. polished floors, metal plates, etc.)

Footwear lacking traction

Make sure your footwear has adequate traction
Some Trip Hazards

1. Hoses, cables, cords, & similar items strewn across walkways
2. Loose, unanchored, or uneven mats or rugs
3. Clutter, obstacles, &/or debris that block a footpath
4. Changes in elevation
Additional Trip Hazards

Other hazards to watch for and have repaired or corrected include:

- Protruding Objects
- Irregular walking surfaces
- Uneven Floors

& improperly designed or damaged stairs
Preventative Measures

- So much as possible, maintain a clean dry walking surface
- Use signs to notify people when there is a slippery floor (e.g. when mopping)
- Pay attention and take your time if you have to traverse a slippery surface
- Wear footwear with proper traction
- Use proper lighting and make sure visibility is good
- Don’t leave objects in pathways
More About Falls

Fall protection is required where there is a potential fall ≥ 4 feet

Forms of fall protection include:
- A standard guardrail system*
- Properly designed & signed hole cover
- Fencing
- Safety net
- Personal fall arrest system
- Fall restraint system

*A standard guardrail system must be used if it can be
How You Can Contribute

Before beginning your work, inspect your worksite and eliminate hazards

Keep aisles & walkways free from slip & trip hazards

Notify your supervisor when you find a slip, trip, or fall hazard that you can’t easily correct