



Slips, Trips and Falls Prevention

Over 12,000 people are killed each year from falls — approximately 1,200 of them occur at work. Falls are the *most common* cause of accidental deaths in the home.

Primary Causes of Falls

- A foreign object on the walking surface.
- Design planning and layout flaws in the walking surface.
- Slippery walking surfaces, particularly in doorway thresholds.
- Individual moving too fast for the surface.
- Individual using improper shoes for the walking surface.

Identifying Hazards

Prevent slips, trips, and falls by looking for the following:

- Stair steps that are slippery, worn or broken.
- Stairway railings that are missing or loose.
- Lighting that is very dim or nonexistent.
- Good maintenance of non-slip surfaces on loading ramps.
- Ladders with loose or broken rungs should be removed from service.

Protection against Slips, Trips, or Falls

- Be alert — watch where you are going.
- Check the conditions of the floors, stairs, ladders and work area — report any defects to your supervisor immediately.
- Look for elevation changes (manholes, drains, uneven pavement).
- Remove clutter and drop cords from walkways.
- Place signs out when a floor area is slippery.
- Clean up all spills when they happen — *do not wait!*
- Conduct a good housekeeping walk-through on a daily basis.
- Keep drawers closed.
- Walk — do not run!
- Carry only loads you can see over.
- Use the hand railing when climbing up or down the stairs.

Develop a Slip, Trip and Fall Prevention Program

- Develop a policy statement that address management's commitment, scope of activity, responsibility, accountability, authority and standard.
- Establish an *acceptable* maintenance standard for the walkways (include snow and ice removal if it applies).
- Establish a dress code for shoes — what footwear is acceptable for the specific job classifications and working conditions?

Want to know more?

Accident Fund is committed to providing our policyholders unrivaled WorkSafe Consulting Services and online safety materials.

For more information, visit us at AccidentFund.com/worksafe.

*Safety Tips From the **WorkSafe People**[™]*



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