

General Information: Falls from slips and trips can occur in any type of workplace. The situations that cause these falls are numerous but are often due to a few common unsafe acts or unsafe conditions that are frequently ignored during the course of the day to day activities performed in employees doing their jobs.

Typical Accidents: The typical slip or trip type of accident is most often caused by either slippery surfaces or obstacles in paths of travel. Slippery surfaces can be caused by such things as liquid spills, oil leaks from equipment, grease, excessive floor wax, rain water tracked in from the outside, mud or other soil tracked in from the outside, walking surfaces with poor traction (such as fancy tile and some concrete), food spills, and footwear that has a slippery sole or is inappropriate for the surface on which the employee is working. Worn-out tennis shoes and leather soled shoes are two common examples of this kind of footwear.

Obstacles in paths of travel can include such things as cords, debris, litter, storage of materials or equipment, furniture, loose or damaged flooring, buckling carpet, tools that haven't been put away, uneven terrain, holes, trenches, and a variety of other items.

Preventative Steps:

1. Always use footwear that is appropriate for the work environment in which you are working. Keep your shoes free from oil, grease, and other slippery materials.
2. Be alert to floor surfaces as you are walking, including changes in those surfaces.
3. Immediately clean up or report spills to the appropriate supervisor.
4. When possible, place warning signs at the spill or wet/slippery surface.
5. Report faulty equipment that is leaking and which causes oil, grease or other liquids to spill out into surrounding areas.
6. Place mats or other devices at entry ways to prevent wet or slippery material from being tracked into buildings or other work areas.
7. Clean up debris and/or litter as soon as feasibly possible.
8. Identify those objects within the immediate area that might pose a tripping hazard. If it can be moved, move it.

General Controls:

1. Maintain good housekeeping throughout all work areas. **Immediately** clean up spills and leaks. Keep paths of travel free from obstructions!
2. Provide a sufficient number of trash receptacles for the disposing of by-products of the work itself, trash, and other items which might be discarded onto floors.
3. Provide a sufficient number and easy access to signs or other warning devices that can be used to warn employees of slippery surfaces or other slip/trip hazards.
4. Inspect the condition of floors and walking surfaces on a regular basis and repair loose tiles or other flooring and repair buckling carpet as soon as feasibly possible.
5. Maintain secondary containment for large liquid containers (30 gallons or more).
6. Use overhead cord retractors whenever possible to eliminate cords being in aisleways.
7. Immediately repair leaky equipment.
8. Change floor surfaces that are inherently slippery with surfaces that are non-slip types.