

TOOL BOX TALKS

Slips & Trips–Winter Weather

Each year over one million people suffer a slip, trip or falling injury, and over 17,000 Americans die as a result. Of the estimated 3.8 million disabling injuries each year in the work force 15% are due to slips, trips, or falls, which account for 12 to 15% of all Workers' Compensation costs. About 5,100 workers died from a fall in 1999. The average direct cost for 1 disabling fall injury now approaches \$28,000.

WORKSAFE TIPS

THE BASICS

- Proper housekeeping in work and walking areas can contribute to safety and the prevention of falls.
- Slow down – do not walk too fast or run.
- Wear good quality footwear appropriate for the work environment and parking lots.

IN THE OFFICE and IN THE LABS

- Keep floor rugs, floor runners or desk chair mats free of curled edges, ripples or folds.
- Do not run extension cords across aisles.
- When ran across aisles, tape extension cords down.
- Keep file drawers closed and chairs pushed in.
- Keep books, boxes, papers out of walkways.
- Remove snow and ice buildup at employee and visitor entrances – be thorough.
- Wear proper footwear for the weather at hand.
- Push desk chairs beneath desks when not in use.
- Glue loose carpet tiles back down again.
- Repair floor tiles that have loosened.
- Custodial staff should always warn pedestrians about wet floors.
- Put out wet floor signs during winter months.
- Sweep up sand or ice melt from employee and visitor entrance floors.
- Never place or store items on stairs.
- Never run or hop up and down stairs – take them one step at a time & use the handrail.
- Never run in the facility – for any reason.

- Report hallway lights that are not working.
- Empty trash containers often to prevent overflow.
- Encourage others to help out!
- Take the initiative – keep walking areas safe!



Inappropriate footwear for winter walking.



That's better:
Better Traction.



TRIPS cause your body to fall forward.



FALLS cause your body to fall backward.



Smart, Accident-Free Environments

These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional.

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