

# TOOL BOX TALKS

## Slips & Trips: Emergency Services

Slips, trips and falls are one of the most common causes of injury for emergency service workers. Emergency workers typically include fire department, police and ambulance workers. But in the municipal world emergency services include street department, linemen, water and wastewater departments as well. Every public works department could be called to an emergency, including a bad fire or natural disaster. Review these safety tips with municipal crews that are responsible for responding to emergencies.

### WORKSAFE TIPS

- Wear appropriate footwear with aggressive tread and slip-resistant properties.
- Tennis shoes are minimal protection. Wearing sandals or other leisure footwear on emergency scenes is not acceptable. These shoes don't have slip-resistant properties, ankle support or aggressive tread.
- Do not respond to any emergency without approved footwear and personal protective equipment.
- Have slip-on ice cleats available for working in icy or snowy locations.
- Never run on an emergency scene. Scan ditches and embankments before proceeding.
- Law enforcement must wear proper footwear in case a foot chase occurs.
- Move unused tools, hoses or cords away from walking paths or from the immediate area of responders. These items can cause trips and slips, unwanted injuries on the scene.
- Emergency scene safety personnel must monitor slip and trip hazards on the scene.
- Use three-point contact when mounting or dismounting trucks.



Park where it is safe to step out.  
Watch curbs and asphalt drop-offs.



Keep unused rescue equipment picked up and out of the work area until needed.



Wear proper footwear on the scene.



*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.*

888.499.SAFE (7233)