

TOOL BOX TALKS

Mopping and Floor Hazards

School Slip, Trip, and Fall Prevention



A school custodian slipped and fell backwards while stripping a tile floor, resulting in a serious hip fracture and head injury. The employee lost consciousness temporarily.

Tool Box Tips

1. Make sure walking and working surfaces are well lit. Use supplemental flood lighting connected to a ground-fault circuit interrupter to protect employees from falls and electric shock.
2. Take extra care around transitions in floors between buildings, they are especially dangerous during stripping. Wear slip-resistant shoes designed for stripping and buffing floors.
3. Never allow untrained employees into a dangerous area. Slips on tile and concrete floors are almost always serious.
4. Never operate floor care equipment without proper training.
5. Limit public access to work areas during floor care activities. Set up barrier tape and signage to warn and keep others out of the area.
6. Pay attention to the location of extension cords to avoid tripping on them.
7. Keep cords from becoming tangled in the buffer or around your feet. Make sure buffer hand controls work correctly.
8. Minimize carrying items when walking across slick floors. Take small steps, lean slightly forward and be conscientious when rounding corners.
9. Keep supplies picked up and stored close. Minimize steps needed to carry buckets, hand tools and mops.
10. Keep the work area well ventilated. Well placed high velocity fans can assist in drying wet floors.
11. Concentrate on your walking path. Horseplay is strictly prohibited.



All incidents are preventable.

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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1.888.499.SAFE (7233)

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