Fact Sheet

Slip, Trip, and Fall Prevention

Slips, trips, and falls account for a majority of general industry accidents. These accidents often cause lasting problems with daily activities, while 15% of these accidents are fatal. These incidents can be prevented through knowledge of common risk factors and the maintenance of a clean, safe work environment.

STEP 1: Be aware of the common risk factors for these injuries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Risk Factors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Doorways</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramps</td>
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<td>Cluttered hallways</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uneven surfaces</td>
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<tr>
<td>Areas prone to wetness or spills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poor lighting</td>
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<td>Inattention to detail</td>
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STEP 2: Follow these tips to prevent slips, trips, and falls, and resultant injury.

1. Clean up spills immediately.
2. Stay off freshly mopped floors.
4. Use non-skid mats for slippery surfaces.
5. Adjust gutter downspouts to drive water away from pathways.
6. Wear shoes with good support and slip-resistant soles appropriate for the job task.
7. Ensure adequate lighting in work areas and hallways.
8. Remove tripping hazards from stairs and walkways.
9. Keep frequently used items in easily reachable areas.
10. Check walkways and steps for obstructions.
11. Do not text while walking.
12. When using a ladder, always have at least three points of contact with the ladder.
13. Never stand on chair, table, or other surface on wheels.

Inspect work areas monthly to identify hazards that could cause slips, trips, or falls. It is important that the indicated problems are addressed immediately.

References

National Safety Council: Slips, Trips, and Falls

OSHA Safety & Health Topics: Walking/Working Surfaces
https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/walkingworkingsurfaces/index.html

For more information on slip, trip, and fall prevention, contact the Office of Environmental Health & Safety at injuryprevention@usc.edu or (323) 442-2200.