

TOOL BOX TALKS

Slip Prevention

Floors that are clean, dry and well-lit are generally safe. Slips result in the body falling backward and are commonly caused by insufficient contact between the shoe and floor. There are many contributing factors to slips, such as liquids or granular material present, inappropriate footwear or speed of stride. Take time to educate your employees about contributing factors to slips, like spills, running and poor footwear choices. Encourage them to prevent costly and painful injuries by taking action when they discover a slip hazard.

WORKSAFE TIPS

WHAT ARE SLIPS?

- Weight from the body is shifted to the heel.
- The body falls backwards.

WHAT INJURIES RESULT FROM A BACKWARDS FALL?

- Head injury to the rear of the skull
- Lower back injury
- Hip injury or fracture

THE BREAKDOWN OF THE SLIP

1. Rear edge of heel strikes the floor.
2. The heel rocks forward, which brings the foot into full contact with the floor, and supports the body.
Slips occur at this stage: When the heel rocks forward and begins to support the weight of the body.
3. The other foot begins the swing phase
4. Foot rocks forward with only the forepart of the foot in contact with the floor

WHAT CAUSES SLIPS?

- Slippery walkway surfaces-water, dirt, ice, grease
- Inadequate footwear-poor slip resistance
- Poor lighting-walker cannot see hazards on floor
- Transitions from non-slippery to slippery conditions such as carpet to tile, concrete to tile

MOST CLEAN AND DRY FLOORS ARE SAFE AND SLIP RESISTANT

WHAT MUST BE DONE?

- Inspect floor surfaces often.
- On rainy, snowy or icy days, inspect floor surfaces on a more frequent basis.
- During inspections, have mops or squeegees ready to take care of wet floors immediately.
- Place warning signs at damp or wet areas.
- Send an e-mail to coworkers and advise them to wear proper footwear and walk carefully during wet, snowy or icy weather.
- Be diligent and keep plenty of ice melt down along curbs, ramps and doorway entrances, where people are likely to slip.



BE DILIGENT--TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO CLEAN UP WET or SLICK SPOTS-- PREVENT AN ACCIDENT!

Missouri Employers Mutual

Work **SAFE**

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