

**THE FACTS:**

- Slips and falls are a leading cause of injury in most industries.
- According to the National Safety Council, approximately 15% of all accidental deaths are due to injuries sustained from a fall, with approximately 12,000 lives lost annually.
- Also, are a leading cause of accidental injuries treated in the hospital emergency rooms with 7,434,032 cases.
- Keeping walkways and floors free from slip/fall hazards requires a team effort.
- The best way to eliminate slips and falls is to eliminate the hazards!



**WHAT CAUSES SLIPS AND FALLS:**

- **Contaminants** – Dirt, grease, oil and spills that are deposited on the floor.
- **Defective Walking Surfaces** – Slippery finishes (waxed floors), normal wear and tear and damaged surfaces (cracks, holes, depressions).
- **Improper Footwear** – Footwear that is not appropriate for working and/or weather conditions.
- **Dissimilar Walking Surfaces** – Change in the type of walking surface from place to place.
- **Poor Housekeeping** – Lack of prompt cleanup of contaminants.
- **Poor Design** – Improper illumination, no handrails and unidentified blind spots.
- **Weather Conditions** – Rain, snow, and ice.

**BE PREPARED—DEVELOP A PLAN:**

- Recognize the hazards on the job.
- Avoid hazards by walking around them carefully or stepping over them. Walk slowly.
- Control hazards by: **1**—Identify the hazard (block off area); **2**—Report the hazard; and **3**—Correct the hazard.

**HOW TO REDUCE SLIP AND FALL ACCIDENTS:**

- Immediately repair unstable walking surfaces such as loose tiles or torn carpet .
- Ensure carpets, rugs, or mats are properly secured to the floor and are laying flat.
- Keep doors, walkways, stairways, and aisles free of obstructions / tripping hazards.
- Keep walking surfaces clean, dry and free of snow and ice.
- Always use handrails when ascending / descending stairways.
- If available, use elevators as opposed to stairs.
  - ◊ Especially if moving boxes, furniture, large items, etc. between floors.
- Have walkway / stairway lighting properly maintained.
- Choose the appropriate footwear for working and weather conditions.
- Immediately notify manager or supervisor of conditions / circumstances that may lead to slips and falls.

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