

Toolbox Talk

Slips, Trips and Falls



In the construction industry last year the number of working days lost due to slips, trips and falls was estimated to be 1.5 million. These ranged from minor to severe injuries.

There are a number of solutions to try and combat the issues linked to slips, trips and falls. Slips, trips and falls however can happen anywhere; on site, in the accommodation or even just walking to the van.

This toolbox talk relates to slips, trips and falls on level ground and does not apply to falls from height.

You must be constantly vigilant and try to combat the risks where possible.

Possible hazards

- Weather conditions can make an area dangerous; rain, ice and snow can cause slippery surfaces, whereas sun can create glare which can hide hazards.
- An untidy site can create obstacles.
- Carrying too much can cause imbalance .
- Contamination; spills, leaks and runoff
- The wrong type of footwear.
- Unfamiliar loud noises can cause distractions.
- Vegetation can hide uneven ground or obstacles.

Key points:

- If you have an accident or a near miss, make sure you report it to your Leader promptly. They can use this information to prevent future accidents.
- Even the smallest incident must be taken seriously

There are a number of factors that can help limit the number of slips, trips and falls on a site or in the accommodation.

What can everyone do to prevent slips, trips and falls on a site?

- Make sure you wear suitable footwear for the activity or location.
- If you see a spillage, clean it up or make arrangements for it to be cleaned.
- Report any damaged floors or mats.
- Play your part and keep the workplace tidy.
- If you see items on the floor where someone could trip over them, remove them or arrange for them to be removed or for the situation to be made safe.
- If you are given Personal Protective Equipment, wear it and look after it. Report any faults or damage to your Leader and make arrangements for a replacement.
- Tell your Leader about any work situation that you think is dangerous, or if you notice that something has gone wrong with the Health and Safety arrangements.

Other solutions can be put into place in order to reduce the risks. Each site is **different** so you must **assess** the **risks individually** for that site.