

# Safety Spotlight

## Preventing Slips, Trips, and Falls

Slips, trips, and fall hazards put workers' safety at risk and can cost employers nearly \$70 billion a year in workers' compensation claims, regulatory fines, productivity, and other administrative expenses. Taking proper safety precautions and being in compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)'s regulations can help keep workers safe.<sup>1</sup>

### Quick Facts and Figures<sup>1</sup>

- In 2016 alone, 20,520 work-related injuries resulted from ice, sleet, or snow and required at least one day away from work with 34,860 due to falls on the same level.
- In 2017, 887 work fatalities were from slips, trips, and falls – a 4% increase from the number reported for 2016.
- In 2018, fall protection general requirements resulted in 7,270 OSHA violations, making this topic #1 on OSHA's Top 10 list since 2011. Similarly, fall protection training requirements resulted in 1,982 violations, earning the topic the #8 spot on OSHA's Top 10 list.
- Fifty-five percent of slip, trip, and fall injuries are due to slippery conditions.
- Slips, trips, and falls account for 12-15% of workers' compensation claims with the injuries costing employers approximately \$20,000 per incident. These injuries result in an average 11 days away from work.

### Common Causes of Slips, Trips, and Falls<sup>1</sup>

- Floor contamination
- Objects obstructing walkways
- Floor irregularities and damage
- Weather conditions
- Lighting inadequacies
- Stairs and railings
- Step stools and ladders
- Floor mats and runners
- Unprotected edges and openings

### Slip, Trip, and Fall Prevention Tips

- **The 5S System:** Maintain good housekeeping and organization of tools/equipment in workspaces and walkways to prevent injury. Use the 5S System: Sort, Set in Order, Shine, Standardize, Sustain.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Hegg, Kirsten. *5 Tips to Prevent Slips, Trips, & Falls*. Graphic Products, 2018, [www.graphicproducts.com/infographics/5-tips-prevent-slips-trips-falls/](http://www.graphicproducts.com/infographics/5-tips-prevent-slips-trips-falls/).

“  
**Fifty-five percent**  
of slip, trip, and fall injuries  
are due to slippery  
conditions.<sup>1</sup>”



**FLEURY**



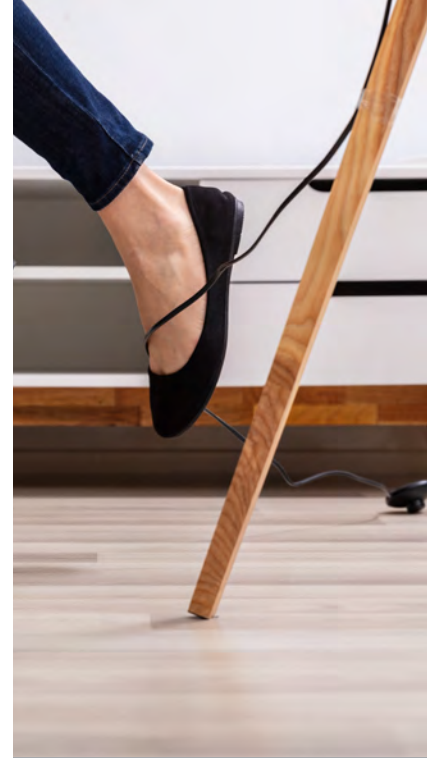
RISK MANAGEMENT

[fleuryrisk.com](http://fleuryrisk.com)

# Safety Spotlight

## Preventing Slips, Trips, and Falls

- **Floor Marking:** Guide workers through the workspace and warn pedestrians of hazards. Use floor markings, wayfinding, and safety tape throughout workspaces.<sup>1</sup>
- **Floor Conditions:** Cover any cables or cords that are in walkways. Consider installing abrasive floor mats or replacing worn flooring.<sup>2</sup>
- **Safety Signs and Labels:** Inform workers of contaminated areas, mark tools and equipment for storage, and track cleanliness in the workplace.<sup>1</sup>
- **Spill Containment:** Clean up areas where spills occur to prevent slips, trips, and falls. Keep spill control and containment products on-hand, ready for use.<sup>1</sup>
- **Facility Lighting:** Improve pathway and exit visibility to help workers avoid slip, trip, and fall hazards. In an emergency, proper lighting can guide workers to safety.<sup>1</sup>
- **Practice Ladder Safety Basics:** When using a ladder, wear slip resistant shoes and don't stand higher than the third rung from the top. Always keep two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand on the ladder. Place the ladder on a solid surface and never lean it against an unstable surface.<sup>3</sup>



“ Clean up areas where spills occur to prevent slips, trips, and falls.<sup>1</sup> ”



<sup>2</sup> Haas Depa, Tracy. "Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls." *Safety and Health Magazine*, 2 May 2016, [www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/14029-preventing-slips-trips-and-falls](http://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/14029-preventing-slips-trips-and-falls).

<sup>3</sup> Make Fall Safety a Top Priority. National Safety Council, [www.nsc.org/work-safety/safety-topics/slips-trips-and-falls](http://www.nsc.org/work-safety/safety-topics/slips-trips-and-falls).

<sup>2</sup> This is a sample guideline furnished to you by Fleury Risk Management, Group Manager. Your organization should review and make the necessary modifications to meet the needs of your organization. The intent of this guideline is to assist you in reducing risk exposure to the public, personnel, and property.  
© 2019 Fleury Risk Management. All Rights Reserved.

FLEURY



RISK MANAGEMENT

[fleuryrisk.com](http://fleuryrisk.com)