

SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS

Falls have long been the leading type of accidents. Many falls involve slipping or tripping on something. Here are some suggestions for dealing with that hazard:

1. Put up signs whenever a floor area is wet or being mopped and cleaned. Dry the area as quickly as possible. Entrances can be a particular problem during winter. Use mats or rugs to keep entry ways free of water or melted snow and ice. Have a place for people to wipe their feet. Take care to keep mats and rugs in good condition so they do not become hazards. Make sure they do not slide; immediately remove from service any with turned up edges.
2. Use proper footwear. Sandals, extremely high heels or narrow heels can be dangerous in the work place. Use slip-resistant soles in areas where spillage or drainage regularly causes slippery floors.
3. Keep floor areas cleaned up, and pick up fallen materials at once. Don't allow scrap to accumulate on the floors. Round items are particularly hazardous. These may roll or slip out of place when stepped on. A piece of round pipe can have the same effect as the classic joke picture of the person stepping on a roller skate. Many other things will roll or slip when stepped on. To reduce the danger:
 - a) Take time to clean up around work stations.
 - b) Encourage people to pick up things from the floor. Don't leave things there for the next person to find - the hard way.
4. Avoid low stacking. If materials need to be stacked on a floor, high stacking is much more visible. A single box left on a floor, particularly in an aisle or around a corner, is a tripping hazard. People in the area are often concentrating on things at a higher level, and simply do not see the low item in their path. Stack to a visible height.