



## It starts with good housekeeping!

Whoaaaaa...

Slips, trips, and falls are one of the leading causes of injuries and fatalities on the job. According to OSHA, these incidents cause 15% of all accidental deaths. They can result in life-changing injuries. These incidents are also very costly for businesses. Reports indicate that the average slip and fall injury costs \$20,000.

### Causes of Slips in the Workplace

Recognizing and addressing the hazards that cause slip incidents should be a focus for your crew. **Slips happen when there is too little friction or traction between the footwear and the walking surface.**



Common causes and contributing factors of slips are:

- Wet or oily surfaces /spills
- Poor weather conditions— Exiting a machine or vehicle in slippery conditions
- Poor lighting conditions
- Loose, unanchored rugs or mats
- Flooring or walking surfaces that do not have the same amount of traction

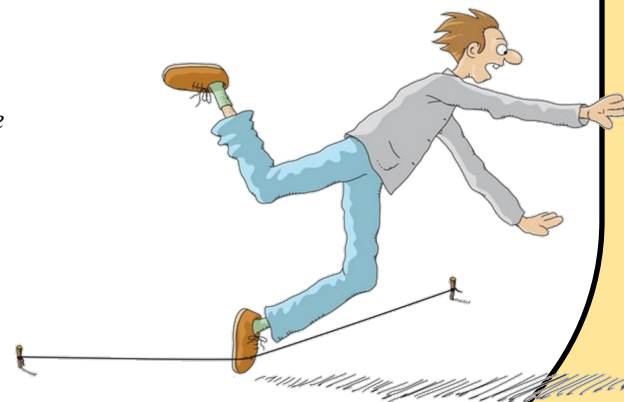
### Slip Prevention

- Practice good housekeeping to prevent slips on the job.
- Keep walkways and paths clear of water, debris, mud, ice, oils, etc., to reduce slippery conditions.
- Place **signage** or barricades around slippery conditions to alert your crew in the area until it can be cleaned up.
- Secure mats or other materials that need to be on the ground, so no shifting occurs when walked on.
- Wear the proper footwear for the conditions. Footwear with good tread makes better contact with the walking surface, which leads to less of a chance of a slip.
- Take smaller steps or shuffle your feet when there are slippery conditions. Taking larger steps can lead to your balance being thrown off, resulting in a slip.

### Summary

*The key is to eliminate these hazards, so individuals are not exposed to them in the first place. If there are no conditions where there is too little friction or traction between an individual's footwear and the walking surface, then NO SLIP.*

**A good DISCUSSION POINT:** What are some hazards that can cause slip incidents at our worksite? How can we avoid them?



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Toolbox Talks are provided as a courtesy to SWPA members. Please remember they are to assist you in developing a safety plan. Keep in mind OSHA, Department of Labor and Insurance requirements may change over time and it is your responsibility to make sure your safety plan is up to date. Reference: OSHA, NIOSH, FRA, Safety Talk Ideas.com



