Slips, trips and falls safety talk

29 CFR 1910.22, 1926.25, 1926.501, 1926.1052, 1926.56, 1926.416

Date _____ Trainer _____ Location _____

Opening question

What is the last thing you tripped over on this job, and is it still there?

Why it matters

Slips, trips and falls happen on every kind of job, not just up high. A fall on a flat floor can still break a wrist, hurt your back or cause a head injury. Spills, cords and clutter are easy to spot and easy to fix if someone takes a minute to deal with them.

Key points

1. **Slips: keep floors clean and dry**
   A slip happens when your shoe loses its grip on water, oil, grease, mud, ice or sawdust. In general industry, workroom floors must be kept clean and, to the extent feasible, dry. Where wet processes are used, drainage must be maintained and, to the extent feasible, dry places to stand, like mats or platforms, must be provided. Clean up spills right away and wear footwear with good tread for the surface.
   29 CFR 1910.22(a)(2)

2. **Trips: clear the path**
   A trip happens when your foot hits something and your body keeps going. On construction sites, scrap lumber with protruding nails and all other debris must be kept cleared from work areas, passageways and stairs. Run cords and hoses along walls or overhead instead of across walkways, and stack materials out of the path.
   29 CFR 1926.25(a)

3. **Fix it or guard it right away**
   When you find a hazard, deal with it now. In general industry, a hazardous condition on a walking-working surface must be corrected or repaired before anyone uses that surface again. If it cannot be fixed right away, it must be guarded to keep people off that surface until it is fixed. Then report it so it gets fixed for good.
   29 CFR 1910.22(d)(2)

4. **Cover and mark holes**
   An open hole is a trip hazard and a fall hazard. On construction sites, workers must be protected from tripping in or stepping into or through holes by covers. Make sure covers are secured and clearly marked, and never lift or move one unless you are told to and the hole is protected.
   29 CFR 1926.501(b)(4)(ii)

ToolboxKits by ALC Media LLC. Not affiliated with OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor. Not legal advice.

5 **Take care on stairs, ramps and ice**

On construction sites, slippery conditions on stairways must be eliminated before anyone uses the stairs to reach another level. Use the handrail and do not carry loads that block your view of the steps. In cold weather, clear and treat snow and ice on walkways, steps and ramps before the crew arrives, and take short steps.

29 CFR 1926.1052(a)(7)

6 **See where you are going**

Construction areas, ramps, runways, corridors and storage areas must be lighted to at least the minimum levels in the OSHA rule while work is in progress. Report burned-out lights, especially on stairs and walkways. Keep your eyes on your path, not your phone, and do not run on site.

29 CFR 1926.56(a)

Scenario

Picture this: it is the first cold morning of the season and a thin layer of ice has formed on the steps of the job trailer. A worker comes out carrying a box of fittings with both hands while checking the plans on his phone. Nobody has salted the steps yet. What could go wrong, and what should the crew have done before the shift started?

Crew discussion

1. Where on this site do you see clutter, cords or hoses in walkways, and who will clear them?
2. What wet or slippery spots do we have, and how should we handle them?
3. Which holes or openings need covers, and are the covers we have secured and marked?
4. What will we do differently when it rains, snows or freezes?

Bottom line **If you see a slip or trip hazard, fix it or guard it now, and report it so it gets fixed for good.**

Free to share and adapt for non-commercial use under the CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 license (creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0). Credit: ToolboxKits, toolboxkits.com/topics/slips-trips-falls/

Sign-in sheet / Hoja de asistencia

Topic / Tema Slips, trips and falls / Resbalones, tropiezos y caídas

Date / Fecha _____

Trainer / Instructor _____ Location / Lugar _____ Company / Empresa _____

#	Name Nombre	Signature Firma	Company Empresa	Date Fecha
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Trainer signature / Firma del instructor _____ Time / Hora _____

ToolboxKits by ALC Media LLC. Not affiliated with OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor. Not legal advice.