Slip Hazards and Safety Stats and Facts



FACTS

- 1. Slips and falls do not constitute a primary cause of fatal occupational injuries, but represent the primary cause of lost days from work.
- 2. Here are two things to know about footwear in the workplace: People working in predominantly wet conditions should wear footwear with a pattern that is deep enough to penetrate surface water and make direct contact with a floor. However, people working in predominantly dry conditions should use footwear having flatbottom construction to ensure maximum contact area with the floor.
- 3. Ten common slipping hazards include spills of liquid or solid materials; wet cleaning methods; rain or snow inside doorways; changes in floor surfaces, such as joins between carpeting and wood flooring; a change from a wet to a dry surface; dusty or sandy surfaces; the incline of a ramp; loose/bumpy flooring; low light; and unsuitable footwear.
- 4. Shoes with urethane or rubber soles have greater slip resistance than shoes with vinyl or leather soles.
- 5. Five housekeeping practices that can help reduce slipping hazards in the workplace include removal of debris, snow and ice; prompt cleanup of spills; regular cleaning of floors; providing mats in areas prone to getting wet—such as building entrances; and cleaning the casters on wheeled carts. (Ontario Ministry of Labour)
- 6. It takes about seven minutes for a wet-mopped spill to dry, meaning that the area is going to be extremely slippery during that time. A better solution is to use a dry paper towel to soak up and dry a spill.

STATS

Slip and Fall Statistics 2017

- 697 workers died in fall-related accidents in 2016
- 48,060 were injured severely enough during a fall to require days off work
- In 2016, 9.2 million people required emergency room treatment from fall-related injuries
- Falls are the number one cause of death for adults 65 and older
- More than 33,000 people died from falls in 2015.
- The National Safety Council's Odds of Dying list ranks falls as the 6th most likely cause of death, with the odds of dying as 1 in 127.
- Falls are the most common cause of traumatic brain injuries.
- Falls are the leading cause of non-fatal medically treated injuries in the U.S.

- Each year, over 8 million emergency room visits are due to slips, trips, and falls.
- Falls are the leading cause of injury-related death for adults age 65 and older.