

Safety Matters

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Identifying Workplace Hazards That Cause Slips, Trips & Falls

Certain workplace factors can contribute to slips, trips, and falls

Environmental Conditions Definitions.

Workplace environmental conditions are the surrounding physical conditions in which an employee works such as lighting, workplace noise level, floor design, and degree of cleanliness.

Environmental Conditions

Poor workplace environmental conditions such as poor housekeeping, poor lighting, and excessive noise can lead to slips and trips. Specific environmental conditions that increase the risk of slips and trips include:

- ❖ Poor lighting, glare, and shadows that make it difficult for employees to see clearly what is in front of them.
- ❖ Excessive noise or temperature. Excessive noise, heat, or cold can distract an employee from exercising appropriate caution in attempting to avoid sources of slips and trips.
- ❖ Rain, Snow, Ice, Fog, or misty conditions.
- ❖ Poor housekeeping (e.g., items not properly stored, spills not promptly cleaned up, etc.)

Workplace Equipment

Workplace equipment can also contribute to slips and trips. Such equipment includes:

- ❖ Bulky personal protective equipment (PPE), including improper footwear.
- ❖ Extension cords pose a tripping hazard for employees.
- ❖ Tools such as drills that leave behind debris such as sawdust.
- ❖ Tools such as hoses that render surface conditions wet. Employees can slip, trip, or fall if these tools are not properly maintained.
- ❖ Inadequate cleaning methods and products.

- ❖ Inadequate or missing signage can lead to employees being unaware of hazardous conditions, such as wet floors or other dangerous conditions. Prompt placement of appropriate signage is crucial to prevent injuries.

Work Practices

Improper work practices can result in injury. Examples of improperly performed work practices that increase the risk of slips, trips, and falls include:

- ❖ Lifting objects that are too heavy for a single person.
- ❖ Using workplace machinery without proper safeguards or safety guards.
- ❖ Neglecting cleanup and sanitation practices can result in the discharge, splatter, or spillage of oils, particles, or dust onto the floor which can lead to injury to employees.

Human Factors

Human factors, also known as individual factors, can also increase the risk of slips and trips. These factors are unique to each worker and include:

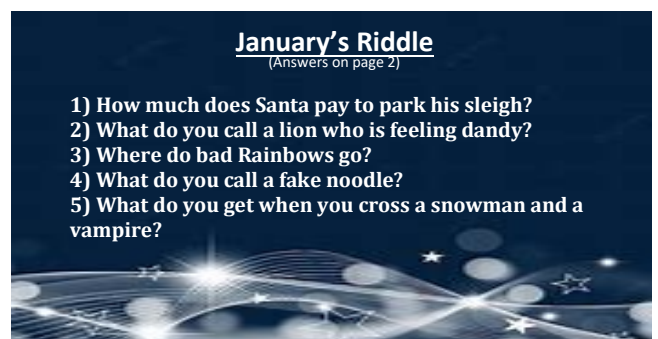
- ❖ Failing eyesight and visual perception. Failing eyesight or use of bifocals may prevent employees from seeing walking surfaces clearly.
- ❖ Age.
- ❖ Physical condition, stress, illness, and fatigue.
- ❖ Medications, alcohol, and drug effects.
- ❖ Not paying attention to surroundings or walking distracted.

"Slips and trips may be caused by certain factors in your workplace" flyer is for informational purposes only and is not intended as medical or legal advice. ©, 2022 Zywave, Inc. All rights reserved.

January's Riddle

(Answers on page 2)

- 1) How much does Santa pay to park his sleigh?
- 2) What do you call a lion who is feeling dandy?
- 3) Where do bad Rainbows go?
- 4) What do you call a fake noodle?
- 5) What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire?



Safety Focused

Teaching Good Housekeeping Protects You Too

The workplace is inherently a lively and dynamic place and often involves co-workers performing various simultaneously. Cleanup is an essential part of every activity and extends beyond cultivating good habits. Without it, your workplace will become a chaotic obstacle course, requiring navigation through a jumble of materials, spills, and tools. This not only proves to be aggravating but also poses a considerable danger. Inadequate housekeeping significantly contributes to slips, trips, and falls and is the common cause of on-the-job injuries.

What is Housekeeping?

Avoiding dangerous conditions like those described above requires your commitment to practicing and teaching good housekeeping habits. This means prioritizing spill cleanup, prompt post-task cleanup, routine cleaning, and the consistent use of effective organization methods throughout the day.

Good housekeeping also means constant vigilance. Remove any object or material that obstructs a pathway or aisle and take care of any other items that could pose a possible danger for employees. This includes:

- ❖ Backpacks or bags
- ❖ Food
- ❖ Garbage
- ❖ Sharp objects

Do's

Follow these housekeeping tips to keep your office safe:

- ❖ Place wet floor signs in wet areas that could pose a slipping hazard and remove them as soon as the area is dry.
- ❖ Have a place for everything. Cleanup is simpler when everything has a designated area.
- ❖ Label boxes and supplies.
- ❖ Only put out the quantity of materials that is needed to complete the task.
- ❖ Make a clean office a shared responsibility.

Don'ts

When practicing good housekeeping, there are several things you should never do:

- ❖ Do not leave housekeeping responsibilities for the last few minutes of the day.
- ❖ Do not pile materials around fire extinguishers, sprinklers, or emergency exits.
- ❖ Do not collect broken glass or other sharp materials in plastic bags.
- ❖ Do not omit the use of gloves when collecting waste—gloves prevent cuts and splinters.

Our Commitment to You

At the State of Delaware, we put your safety first. If you have any doubts about the security of your worksite—regarding housekeeping or any other issue—do not hesitate to talk to your Risk Manager or Safety Officer.

Answers

- 1- Nothing! It's on the house.
- 2- A Dandelion
- 3- To Prism, it's a light sentence.
- 4- An Impasta
- 5- Frost-Bite.

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