



Mission Success Starts With Safety



SSC Monthly Construction Contractor Meeting

Safety Presentation

Trip Hazards

Dec 7, 2023

PREVENTING WORKPLACE TRIP HAZARDS



What is a Walking-Working Surface? When you first see the name of OSHA's main trip and slip hazard, you may wonder what a "walking-working surface" is. But it's just a surface you walk on...or work on. Walking-working surfaces include floors, aisles, stairs, platforms, and more. There are many factors that can contribute to the likelihood of a slip or trip. Many slip or trip hazards are substances or objects that make a walking-working surface dangerous, but footwear and environmental conditions also play a part.

Examples of Slip Hazards Include:

- Water, ice, snow, mud, grease, oil, food, or other wet products on smooth floors
- Dust, powders, plastic wrapping, granules, or other dry products that are slippery on smooth floors
- Freshly waxed surfaces and highly polished surfaces that remain slick when dry (like concrete, marble, or ceramic)
- Loose or irregular surfaces like gravel or unanchored flooring
- Sloped walking surfaces without slip- or skid-resistance
- Muddy terrain, wet or dry leaves, pine needles, or plant debris
- Shoes with inadequate traction. Soles that are wet, muddy, or greasy

Workplace Trip Hazard Examples:

Officially, OSHA's trip hazard height is a quarter inch. Any change in floor level that is $\frac{1}{4}$ inch or more constitutes a tripping hazard.

Examples of common tripping hazards include:

- Uncovered hoses, cables, wires, or cords across walking surfaces
- Obstacles or clutter on walking surfaces
- Furniture drawers/door left open
- Unmarked steps or ramps and damaged or irregular steps
- Rumpled carpets or mats (or curled edges)
- Thresholds, gaps, and other irregularities in walking surfaces

Slips, Trips, and Falls Prevention

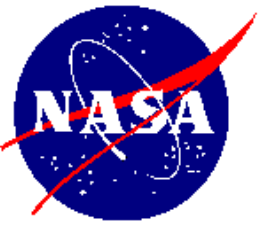
Some slip, trip, and fall prevention measures are permanent, including:

- Adequate lighting
- Handrails
- Slip-resistant surfaces in high-risk areas
- Effective drainage, ventilation, and other methods to keep surfaces dry
- Marking the edges of steps or elevation changes

Other methods for preventing slips, trips, and falls require ongoing participation from workers, including:

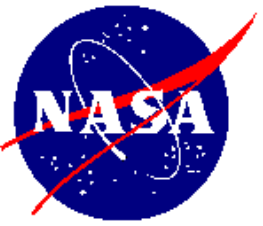
- Proper footwear
- Safe work practices
- Frequent cleaning
- Good housekeeping practices that keep walkways free of clutter
- Noticing and marking slip or trip hazards

As a result, a lot of slip, trip, and fall prevention relies on the ability of the workforce to recognize slipping and tripping hazards, understand how to mitigate them, and know how to use safe work practices to minimize their risk.



Slip/Trip Hazards Examples





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