

## Don't Slip Up on Slip/Trip/Fall Prevention

According to Cal\OSHA slips/trips/falls account for the majority of all general industry accidents, and falls account for about 20 percent of all occupational fatalities, second only to motor vehicle accidents. Slip/trip/fall hazards are everywhere in the workplace and are a serious safety concern.

### Why Slips Happen

Slips occur when there is too little traction between your footwear and the walking surface. Common causes of slips include:

- Spills (even a few drops of coffee spilled on a smooth-surface floor are enough to cause a slip and fall)
- Weather-related hazards (for example, wet floors inside, when workers track water in on their shoes, as well as icy surfaces or surfaces littered with storm debris outside)
- Loose, unanchored rugs or mats
- Flooring or other walking surfaces that donot have same degree of traction in all areas (for example, going from a carpeted floor to a vinyl floor)



*When we share the responsibility for safety in the workplace, everyone wins!!*

## **Why Trips Happen**

Trips occur when your foot collides with an object or obstruction, causing you to lose your balance and fall. Common causes of trips include:

- Obstructed view (for example, a carrying a load that you cannot see over)
- Poor lighting
- Clutter on the floor
- Wrinkled carpeting
- Uncovered cables or cords in walkways
- Bottom drawers left open
- Uneven walking surfaces such as steps or thresholds

## **Housekeeping**

Housekeeping is the "first and most important" way to prevent workplace slips/trips/falls. This includes simple, but highly effective, steps you can take, such as:

- Cleaning all spills immediately
- Marking spills and wet areas when they cannot be dried up right away
- Mopping or sweeping debris from floors
- Removing obstacles from walkways and always keeping them free of clutter
- Securing (tacking, taping, etc.) mats, rugs, and carpets that do not lie flat
- Always closing file cabinet, desk, or storage drawers
- Covering cords and cables that cross walkways
- Keeping working areas and walkways well lighted
- Replacing used light bulbs and faulty switches

## **Footwear**

Does the footwear that you wear to work provide adequate protection from specific hazards in your work area? In order to help prevent slips/trips/falls, you should wear safe footwear with antislip properties and solid support.

Keep in mind that in accordance with our Policy & Procedures, thongs are not acceptable footwear at EOC. In many Programs, open-back and open-toed footwear is not acceptable. If you are unsure as to what type of footwear is acceptable for your particular Program, check with your supervisor.

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