

GAP Tool Box Talk: Slips, Trips & Falls



Slips, Trips & Falls – The Facts

- Slips and trips are the most common cause of major injuries at work – accounting for over a third of employee injuries
- Slips and trips make up more than half of all reported major or specified injuries to employees
- 986,000 working days were lost during 2013/14 due to slips and trips
- Slips and trips also account for over half of all reported injuries to the public

Who is responsible?

- Everyone at work, but particularly the employer, has a responsibility to reduce slip, trip and fall hazards
- The solutions are often simple and cheap and often lead to other benefits
- Most injuries from slips and trips occur because of poor housekeeping

Management

- A good management system will help to identify problem areas and will often help decide what actions should be taken
- We all have our part to play in keeping a good standard of housekeeping on any site or office

How do slips, trips and falls occur?

- Coiled cables
- Hand tools
- Piping or timber
- Rubbish
- Spilled substances such as oils, greases
- Slopes
- General debris such as bricks and blocks
- Trailing cables
- Site hoses
- Mud left on the rungs of a ladder
- Working in poor light
- Unsuitable footwear
- Change from wet to dry weather



What can you do about it?

- Clear up waste materials as you create them
- Do not leave tools, equipment or unused materials lying around
- Ensure materials are stacked correctly and in the right storage area
- When using substances which may spill, ensure that you have the means for clearing up any spillages correctly
- Ensure that routes for cables for power tools are routed in the most appropriate manner i.e. at above head height or routed on the ground level but not across walkways - you could also use cordless tools



What can you do about it?

- If sites are muddy, scrape mud off your boots before climbing ladders
- Beware of the risks while working on winter afternoons and at night, ensure that suitable lighting is in place and that all tools, materials and equipment are stored in suitable storage locations
- Ensure that appropriate PPE is worn where provided i.e. footwear, gloves, hard hat etc



Eye protection
must be worn



Safety helmet
must be worn



Ear protection
must be worn



Safety boots must
be worn



Safety gloves
must be worn



Safety overalls
must be worn

REMEMBER

- Clear up as you go and don't cause someone to be seriously injured
- Report all incidents no matter how unimportant you think it is
- All near misses should also be reported.
- By working together you will make a difference

