

Talk 6: Slips, Trips & Falls



Why This Matters

Slips, trips, and falls are the leading cause of lost-time injuries on construction and logistics sites. Most incidents are preventable when we identify minor hazards before they injure someone.

Top Risk Areas

- ✓ Wet or oily surfaces near wash bays, refueling zones, and kitchens
- ✓ Trailing leads, hoses, and cords left across walkways
- ✓ Uneven ground, potholes, open trenches, and temporary ramps
- ✓ Rubbish, packaging, and offcuts left in access ways
- ✓ Improvised steps or climbing on pallets, buckets, or plant

Prevention Fundamentals

- ✓ Clean spills immediately and place signage until fully dry
- ✓ Route cables overhead or use cord covers on pedestrian paths
- ✓ Keep lighting working—report blown lamps in stairwells and containers
- ✓ Use handrails and maintain three points of contact on steps and ladders
- ✓ Wear the correct footwear with intact tread—replace damaged boots

Stop • Mark • Fix

1. **STOP** the hazard from being used (block access or stand guard)
2. **MARK** the area with cones or barriers so others see it
3. **FIX** the source or raise a work request before leaving

Housekeeping & Access

- ✓ Stack materials neatly and never protrude into walkways
- ✓ Maintain temporary stairs, ramps, and scaffold decks daily
- ✓ Backfill or barricade holes immediately after work
- ✓ Keep emergency exits and muster routes free of stored items

Discussion Points

- ✓ Where are our most congested walkways today?
- ✓ What recent near-misses have we had with slips or trips?
- ✓ What quick improvements can we make before break?