

LOSS CONTROL

Policyholder Training Series

Policy Training Series (PTS) Important Points:

- A same level fall can result in fractures or broken bones and even head injuries; 20% of lost work time injuries are a result of same level falls.
- There are four factors that contribute to slip and fall hazards.
 - Worker factors
 - Machinery/equipment factors
 - Environmental factors
 - Management practices
- There are a number of things management can do to prevent slips, trips and falls.

For information about any of FirstComp's Loss Control Services, please call (888) 500-3344 or email losscontrol@firstcomp.com.

Slips, Trips and Falls

Controlling This Common Hazard

Most falls on a level surface do not result in a serious injury but sometimes these falls can do more harm than would be expected. A same level fall can result in fractures or broken bones and even head injuries. These falls account for 20 percent of lost work time in the U.S. Employers can take steps to prevent these types of accidents from occurring.

There are four factors that contribute to slip, trip and falls:

Worker factors

Workers may create hazards by using equipment improperly and creating a trip hazard. They could also suffer from fatigue, making them prone to falls. Furthermore, they can engage in risky behavior such as running or carrying large items up or down stairs.

Machinery/equipment factors.

Poorly designed equipment can create slip and fall hazards too. If the equipment has projections the employee could trip over that part of the machine. Also, if the equipment is poorly maintained and leaks fluid, it creates a slip hazard.

Environmental factors.

There are elements of seasonal or weather related factors for slip and fall hazards like ice and snow. Poor maintenance can also lead to hazards such as burned out light bulbs or a damaged floor.

Management practices.

All factors can be affected positively or negatively by management practices. If there is no training for workers in basic walking and working surface safety, workers may not report hazards. Also, if management does not provide adequate staffing or budget for maintenance, machinery and equipment could become unsafe.

To prevent slips, trips and falls:

- Ensure walking surfaces are predictable with good traction.
- Prohibit running.
- Require appropriate footwear.
- Keep walking surfaces clean and clear.
- Clearly identify slick or uneven surfaces.
- Provide proper lighting.
- Control slips by adequate drainage systems or high-traction work surfaces.

(12/2013)