



A Division of SPG
Insurance Solutions, LLC



THE DISPATCH

MANAGING RISK IN THE MOVING & STORAGE INDUSTRY

TOPIC

Slips, Trips, and Falls

2021

Workplace Falls¹

DEATHS

5,000

INJURED

90,000

DAYS LOST

31

(Average Serious Injury)

There are a number of variables that contribute to the frequency and severity of slips, trips, and falls.

These include slippery, improperly constructed, poorly designed, or deteriorated walking surfaces, and human factors. Some of these variables are more controllable than others – here are some of the solutions.

1. **Consider walking surfaces when remodeling or during new construction.** Avoid terrazzo, glazed ceramic tile, marble, and granite. Place carpets down on these entry areas to avoid slips in wet weather.
2. **Identify and correct significant differentials in surface continuity.** Falls frequently occur when you must change your gait or stride. (Example; change in surface from a ramp or walk-board to a regular surface. Or the bumper stops in parking lots that you may be required to step over.) Make these transitions as flat as possible.
3. **Identify and correct significant height differentials.** As little as 1/4" can cause a trip and fall. Carpet to tile, tile to carpet, defects in carpet, computer cords all cause tripping hazards. Eliminate or reduce these hazards whenever possible.
4. **Reduce the hazards in vehicles and equipment.** Install anti-slip coatings or tape on steps of vehicles. Make sure handles are secure and available for climbing in and out of vehicles. Keep cargo area neat and orderly. Keep straps and furniture pads neatly and securely removed from the main traffic areas.
5. **Develop a planned maintenance program.** Determine your maintenance needs for cleaning and providing safe walking surfaces, including warehouse, office, walk-boards, and trailers. Make sure employees know their responsibility in keeping work areas clean and reporting spills that can cause a tripping hazard.
6. **Review the footwear of employees.** Make sure all employees are wearing non-skid shoes with adequate ankle support. Good footwear can improve traction and reduce falls.
7. **Install signs or bright paint around stairs, ramps, or other surface changes.** Stairways should have adequate railings, proper riser, tread depth, and proper tread friction. Aluminum tread edges can improve slippery stairs.

¹2021 Workplace Falls <https://aficio.org/reports/death-job-toll-neglect-2021#>

Whatever occupation you're in, be sure to take the proper precautions when in your work environment and be sure to speak up if you see areas that could be deemed unsafe.

If you have any questions or need help with your safety and loss control program, please contact our claims department.

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