

WEEKLY SAFETY MEETING

FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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Job Name _____

Date _____

SLIPS AND SPILLS

It's happened to most of us. You're walking around a jobsite, doing your work, not looking where you're going, and the next thing you know, you're flat on your back because you slipped on something. If you were in a lot of pain, you probably called for help. But if it was a minor slip, you probably looked up, embarrassed, wondering if anyone was looking, dusted yourself off, and moved on. Often, workers don't report these incidents, so no one discusses how to avoid them. Instead of ignoring the problem, we should focus on preventing and reducing slips that can lead to injuries.

Slips occur when a person's upper body is not adequately positioned over the lower body. Various factors can contribute to a slip: environmental factors can include slippery floors, worn shoes, and water or oil spills on floors; human factors include inattention, poor or obstructed vision, and inadequate lighting. All of these hazards can be controlled to prevent accidents that could lead to serious injuries.

Spills of any kind—oil, water, dirt, grease, or any other materials—should be cleaned up and disposed of immediately. When you see a spill, clean it up, even if you didn't create it. Whenever possible, correct the source of the hazard. Do your part by keeping your work area free from slipping hazards. Use funnels when dispensing petroleum products from one container to another. Don't overfill fuel tanks and vessels. Nails, nuts, bolts, and other small, round objects can make your feet skate in one direction while your upper body goes in another direction. To avoid these skate hazards, keep a small bucket in your work area to collect small cutoffs of copper pipe, conduit, and other small objects as you work.

Another important factor in avoiding slips is to keep your eyes on your path. Be observant; watch for objects and materials along your route. Make sure walking surfaces are adequately illuminated. If it's been raining, snowing, or if it's muddy outside, watch your step indoors and outdoors and report slippery surfaces immediately. Watch for signs and cones indicating slip hazards. Wearing appropriate slip-resistant safety footwear can also reduce slips. You can further prevent slips by simply holding on to stair railings as you move up or down a stairway. Should you slip or stumble, you can hold the railing firmly to steady yourself or to get your balance back. When it comes to slips, embarrassment should be the least of your concerns. Think about safety every step of the day.

Medication can also contribute to slips.

SAFETY REMINDER

**Read medication labels
to see if they can affect your balance or vision.**

Special Topics For Your Project _____

Employee Safety Recommendations _____

S.A.F.E. Cards[®] planned for this week _____

Reviewed MSDS # _____ Subject _____

Meeting Attended By _____

Supervisor's Signature _____

These instructions do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations.