AVOID SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS WITH GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

TOOLBOX SAFETY TALK

EXPLAIN THE DANGER

Most injuries resulting from falls aren't caused by falls from a height. They are from slips and trips on the same level, while walking on surfaces that are uneven, slick from spills or ice buildup, or cluttered with cords, materials, garbage, and construction debris.

CONSIDER CLUTTER

- Clutter can accumulate quickly on site scrap lumber, broken bricks, pieces of drywall, strap-bands, and packaging.
- Clutter can often be irregular in shape, hard to handle, and full of sharp objects.
- One of the biggest problems is packaging. Too often packaging is removed from material and left wherever it falls. This creates tripping and slipping hazards. It also makes other hazards hard to see.

Mess invites more mess. When a site isn't regularly cleaned up, leaving waste where it drops can become the normal way of doing things. When that happens, workers can't see what is underneath: cords or faulty wiring, protruding nails, damaged flooring, and missing scaffold planks.

IDENTIFY CONTROLS

Good housekeeping includes having waste containers for collecting and throwing away debris. It also means that workers clear walkways and their work areas, and empty waste containers regularly.

To keep the worksite safer from slips, trips and falls:

- Take responsibility for your work area.
- Clean up as you work.
- Keep equipment and the areas around equipment free of scrap material and debris.
- Keep stairways, ramps, and other travel areas clear.
- Before handling used lumber, remove or bend over any protruding nails, and chip away hardened concrete.
- Remove flammable clutter and debris immediately from sources of ignition such as welding, flame cutting, and propane heating.
- Clean up spills or mark them to warn others until the spill can be cleaned up.

Working on a roof or at heights?

- Secure any loose or light material stored on roofs and open floors to keep it from blowing away in the wind.
- Place material so there is no risk of it falling to lower levels of the worksite.
- Discard materials through an enclosed chute or lower the material in containers.
- Store material so that it won't roll or slide in the direction of any openings. Use blocking if necessary.

DEMONSTRATE

Review housekeeping problems unique to your location. Also, check that waste containers are readily available so that workers can keep walkways and work areas clear.

