

Keep a Look Out for Trip and Fall Hazards

Take a look around. You'll probably find more than a few trip and fall hazards lurking in your work area. Common trip and fall hazards include:

- Poor Housekeeping
- Cords in Walkways
- Improperly Stored Materials
- Cluttered Work Areas
- Poor Visibility
- Carelessness
- Open Drawers
- Uneven Flooring

Employees should know how to recognize and eliminate trip and fall hazards.

Preventing trip and fall injuries are the responsibility of all employees. The best way to do that is through safety meetings where employees can discuss trip and fall hazards and their precautions. The following points should be emphasized:

- Keep work areas neat and tidy and place tools and materials away after use
- Pick up items from the floor even if you didn't put them there
- Step around obstructions, not on or over them
- Walk slowly, making sure you can see where you're going, especially when carrying a load
- Watch for changes in floor level--such as a few steps or a ramp up or down
- Watch your step before entering and leaving elevators
- Immediately reporting lighting problems to maintenance
- Use a flashlight in dark areas, such as outside the facility at night
- Do not leave boxes, bags, tools, or other materials on the floor
- Do not lay cords or power cables across walkways
- Do not leave any items on stairs
- Do not leave drawers open for somebody to trip over