

Description

Most common, everyday, falls often seem minor without resulting in any serious injury. When you think of workplace falls, dramatic falls from higher elevations come to mind. These falls most likely result in serious or fatal injuries. Some industries pose a greater risk for falls. However, during the course of a workday, anyone can slip, trip or fall anywhere, even in the seemingly benign office setting. Using a ladder to change a light bulb can result in a fall with injuries.

Everyone has slipped, tripped or fallen, most times without great injury. Slips and trips occur with greater frequency and usually result in sprains or strains. Falls from elevations occur infrequently, but serious or fatal injuries typically result.

Falls are classified into four general categories: slips, trips, falls on stairs, and falls from elevation. Slips and trips occur on the same level. Stair and elevated falls occur from one level to another.

OSHA does not have specific regulations for training workers to avoid slips, trips and falls. Because of the loss of worker time and OSHA and insurance company investigations, your company has a strong and regular training program for its employees. This training is used for new employees, employees whose job duties have changed and for retraining.

The area of slips, trips, and falls encompasses a number of safety issues, including reporting hazards, good housekeeping in work areas, spill cleanup, personal protective equipment, and fall protection, including ladder and climbing issues.

We will cover the general requirements for preventing slips, trips, and falls.

Objectives

After your training program, the trainees should be able to:

- Discuss “fall factors” that are present in the facility
- Understand why slips occur
- Learn how to prevent injuries from slips, including appropriate footwear
- Explain why trips occur and how to keep them from happening
- Understand why falls occur and how to prevent them
- Review the hazards of stairs
- Discuss fall prevention methods when using ladders and scaffolds

Audience

Any employee can slip, trip, or fall in the workplace. However, those workers whose jobs require them to cross oily or wet floors; climb scaffolding or stairs; or walk in obstructed areas are more likely to be injured in a slip, trip, or fall.

Requirements

There are no specific training duties under OSHA covering slips, trips, and falls, although there are numerous regulations governing the sources of many slips, trips, and falls, such as construction and maintenance of ladders, scaffolds, and walkways.