



WINTER SLIP, TRIP AND FALL HAZARDS

TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – INJURY PREVENTION

November 2024

Introduction:

- As winter approaches, we need to focus on the increased risk of slip, trip, and fall hazards due to ice and snow. These incidents can lead to serious injuries, so it's essential that we remain vigilant and take proactive steps to protect ourselves.

Understanding Slip, Trip, and Fall Hazards:

- **Definition:** Slip, trip, and fall incidents can occur when there is a loss of traction or balance. In winter, these risks are heightened due to icy surfaces, snow accumulation, and poor visibility.
- **Common Injuries:** Sprains, fractures, head injuries, and other serious conditions can result from falls.

Identifying Hazards:

1. Ice and Snow:

- Accumulation of ice and snow on walkways, driveways, and work areas.
- Black ice, which is hard to see and can be especially dangerous.

2. Inadequate Lighting:

- Reduced visibility during shorter days can make it harder to see hazards.

3. Obstructions:

- Tools, equipment, or materials left in walkways can increase the risk of trips.

4. Wet Surfaces:

- Melted snow or water from boots can create slippery surfaces indoors.



Prevention Strategies:

1. Wear Appropriate Footwear:

- Use boots with non-slip soles designed for winter conditions.
- Consider using traction devices like ice grips if conditions are particularly hazardous.



2. Maintain Clear Walkways:

- Regularly shovel snow and apply salt or sand to icy areas to improve traction.
- Use signs to indicate slippery areas and ensure they are visible.

3. Be Mindful of Your Surroundings:

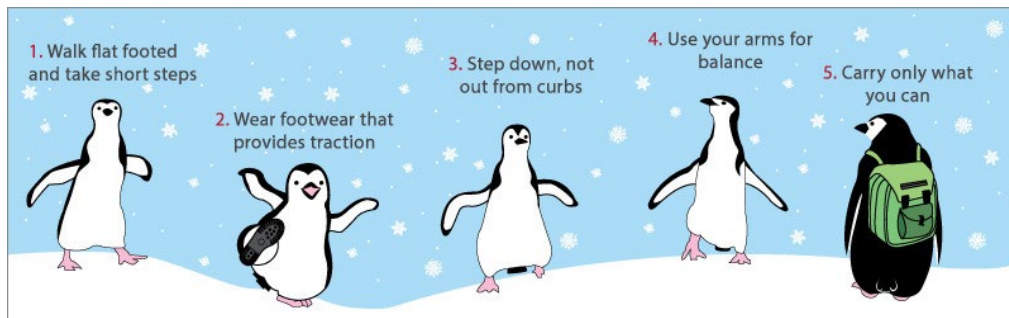
- Watch where you step, especially on untreated surfaces.
- Look for hazards like cracks, holes, or changes in elevation.

4. Take Your Time:

- Avoid rushing, especially when walking on slippery surfaces. Take shorter steps and keep your center of gravity over your feet.

5. Proper Ladder and Equipment Use:

- When using ladders or equipment in winter conditions, ensure they are stable and clear of snow or ice.
- Follow all safety protocols for working at heights or with tools in slippery conditions.



Response Procedures:

• If You Slip or Fall:

- Assess yourself for injuries. If you are injured, seek help immediately.
- Report the incident to your supervisor to ensure its documented and addressed.

• If You See a Hazard:

- Report any hazardous conditions, such as icy areas or obstructions, to your supervisor so they can be mitigated promptly.

Conclusion:

- Winter conditions can pose significant risks for slips, trips, and falls, but by being aware and taking preventative measures, we can keep ourselves and our coworkers safe.
- Let's work together to create a safe working environment this winter.