

Slips, Trips and Fall (STF) Hazards

Did you know that **Slips, Trips and Falls** (STFs) are the leading cause of workplace injuries in Ontario, with 1/5 of the “lost-time injury” claims. The Ontario Ministry of Labour (MOL) conducts regular inspection blitzes on **Slips, Trips and Fall Hazards** in all industry sectors on a regular basis, and we anticipate a blitz on STFs in the near future. In light of the season and the recent climatic phenomena, the Health and Safety office wanted to raise awareness and remind all workers of the common hazards and prevention methods that can be applied at your workplace to minimize the risk of STFs.

To prevent common STF hazards, some controls that can be put in place include:

Common STF Hazards:

- Slippery surfaces
- Unsuitable footwear
- Unattended spills – wet and dry agents
- Changes in walkway levels and slopes
- Poor housekeeping
- Poor lighting
- Seasonal hazards – snow and ice

- Train workers on safe practices like cleaning spills, reporting hazards and proper material handling
- Practice good housekeeping – do not block walkways; keep floors clean; secure mats, rugs or carpets; remove debris, snow or ice
- Choose appropriate flooring for the job task or workplace conditions
- Use signage to caution workers on STF hazards
- Provide sufficient space and proper lighting
- Provide ramps or handrails where needed
- Have proper drainage in place
- Mark slopes or uneven surfaces
- Select proper footwear for the task or condition
- And **USE CAUTION** by **SLOWING DOWN!!**

AVOID STFs

66% of fall accidents are a result of “**same level**” falls. Same level falls are either slips that result from little traction or friction between the walking surface and footwear, or trips that result from foot collisions with objects causing a loss of balance. Be cautious of your surroundings and take your time.

Questions?

Contact UOIT Health and Safety at:
Ext. 2140 or 6521
Email: healthandsafety@uoit.ca

Additional Resources:

Ministry of Labour – Prevent STFs
http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/sawo/pubs/fs_falls.php

MOL Prevent Slips and Falls Poster:
http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/pdf/poster_falls.pdf

Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety – Prevention of Slips, Trips and Falls
http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety_haz/falls.html

