

TOOL BOX TALKS

Hazards of Wet Floors

Wet floors happen from time to time. Mopping, rain and melting snow are common reasons for wet floors. Serious concern should be granted to floors that remain wet on a continuous basis due to a water leak, leaking valve or condensation. Remember that wet floors, no matter what the reason, can be extremely dangerous. Wet floors are a major contributor to slips & falls where serious injuries are the result. Review these wet floor safety tips with all employees.

WORKSAFE TIPS

Hazards of wet floors

- Slips with rearward falls.
- Rearward falls produce injuries to the head, back & pelvis.
- An employee could fall into a machine or onto a sharp object, creating a serious injury.
- Falls from a standing position can be fatal.

Making safety a priority:

- Slips, trips, and falls constitute the majority of general industry accidents.
- They cause 15% of all accidental deaths, and are second only to motor vehicles as a cause of fatalities.
- Keep floors clean and dry.
- Continually wet floors promote the growth of mold, fungi and bacteria that can cause infections.
- Place warning signs in wet areas.
- Do not walk through a freshly mopped area.
- Block off areas with wet floors.
- Maintain good drainage.
- Bridge over wet areas with false floors, platforms or mats, or other dry standing places.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- When your work requires activity in wet areas, purchase footwear that limits slips on wet floor surfaces.
- When mopping a hallway or entrance way, mop only one side at a time so employees won't be forced to walk through the mopped area.
- Place fans to help dry the floor surface quickly.
- Do not run.
- Provide adequate lighting.

Water creates a lubricating layer between the shoe and floor.



When it rains, make extra effort to keep floors dry.



Warn others when floors are wet.



Work SAFE

Smart, Accident-Free Environments

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Parking Lot Hazards

Healthcare Slip, Trip, and Fall Prevention



A groundskeeping employee entered the building in the early morning to turn on the lights and air compressor. While on his way to the switches, he tripped over an air hose lying across the path. The employee suffered one broken wrist and a bruised nose.

Tool Box Tips

1. Stay alert. Bad habits including laziness, carelessness and complacency result in injuries.
2. Make sure spills, obstructions, supplies and garbage are removed from walking surfaces.
3. Keep machine and equipment steps free of mud and ice buildups.
4. Scan walking areas ahead for any potential slip and trip hazards.
5. Be aware of parking lot hazards such as moving vehicles, trespassers, dark or poorly lit areas, potholes, vehicle debris, rocks, mud and ice.
6. Report parking lot lights that have stopped working and any areas that could use additional lighting.
7. Use a good quality flashlight to scan dark areas before entering.
8. Wear slip-on ice cleats during snow or icy conditions.
9. Watch out for curb stops, drain grates and concrete slabs that heave throughout the year.
10. Slow down when entering a building from the parking lot.
11. Prevent a slip or fall by making sure you use the three points of contact when getting in and out of equipment.
12. Consider walking on grass when sidewalks are slick.

Parking lots have many hidden hazards.

Be alert and scan your pathways first.

These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional.

For more information:

 www.worksafecenter.com  1.888.499. SAFE (7233)

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