

Nearly two hundred claims are accepted each year for injuries caused by falls in Yukon workplaces. These falls can result in injuries ranging from minor cuts and bruises to more severe injuries, which may result in hospitalization and long recovery times. Hazards that cause slips, trips and falls can be found in all workplaces.

What's the hazard?

A hazard is something that may expose a person to a risk of injury. Slips can happen when there is not enough grip or traction between the footwear and the walking surface. Trips can happen when people lose their balance after their feet collide with objects. Slips or trips often result in falls.

Below are examples of hazards that often contribute slips, trips and falls. Which could happen in your workplace? Are there any others that may be relevant in your workplace?

Examples of hazards that could contribute to a slips, trips and falls include:

- water, oil, grease or dust on the floor
- damaged or worn carpets, rugs and mats
- uneven flooring
- cluttered walkways
- improper footwear
- snow or ice on walkways
- uncovered cables
- poor lighting
- obstructed views
- stairs or ramps without handrails

What can be done to prevent slips, trips and falls in the workplace?

Although slips, trips and falls occur frequently, they are some of the most preventable workplace incidents. Effective hazard identification, risk assessment and hazard controls can help prevent most slips, trips and falls.

Required by law:

- employers must do hazard assessments and identify any hazards in their workplaces, including slip, trip or fall hazards
- employers must have safe work procedures for identified hazards that cannot be eliminated
- employers must offer training to employees on safe work procedures
- employers must have procedures for reporting, investigating, and documenting incidents and injuries, and offer training to employees on those procedures
- workers must provide and wear appropriate footwear
- employers must ensure that workers wear effective and appropriate footwear

Additional controls:

- practise good housekeeping
- clean spills immediately
- maintain quality of walking surfaces
- use handrails

Talk leader instructions:

- This is background information ONLY.
- Be sure to customize to your organization.
- Consider printing copies of this sheet for yourself and each participant.
- Lead a discussion with your workers about the materials on this sheet.
- Be sure to give real life examples whenever possible. Be open to questions.
- Conclude with a brief review of the main points or a summary based on the discussion.
- Fill in the name of your organization, location and the date on your sheet. Have each worker sign your sheet to confirm their attendance.
- File your sheet in your worker records to document the Safety Talk.

- inspect and maintain footwear
- double-check walkways when carrying large items
- carry only as much as can be safely handled
- maintain appropriate pace
- make sure walkways have adequate lighting
- stay alert and avoid distractions
- secure loose mats, rugs, cables and cords
- close low filing cabinet or storage drawers

Discussion questions:

1. How does your workplace assess slip, trip and fall hazards?
2. What actions can you take to prevent slips, trips and falls in your workplace?

More information:

If you have questions about preventing slips, trips and falls in your workplace, please contact:

- Workers' Safety and Compensation Board, 867-667-5450 or 1-800-661-0443 or worksafe@gov.yk.ca

Disclaimer

This resource has been prepared to help workplaces understand and comply with workplace health and safety laws. It is not legal advice and is not intended to replace the *Workers' Safety and Compensation Act, S.Y. 2021, c.11* and *Workplace Health and Safety Regulations*.

Safety Talk record:

Print and complete this page or fill in electronically, then save as a record of your Safety Talk.

Comments/suggestions

Organization name

Safety Talk leader

Date

Safety Talk participants

print name

signature
