

Slip, Trips, Falls in the Workplace

According to the Department of Labor Slip, Trip, and Fall's (STF) are one of the major causes of workplace accidents in General Industry. (<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/walkingworkingsurfaces/>)

A STF can occur anytime the sole loses traction with a walking surface. Wet walking surfaces, Dry floors with Powder or Sawdust on the surface, and Cracked or Uneven Walking Surfaces are just a few examples of STF causes. The following recommendations are possible solutions to eliminating those hazards:

Good walking surfaces

Sidewalks, Parking lots, Food Prep areas, and Floors are areas where STF's can occur. Reduce STF hazards by:

- Good maintenance of sidewalks and parking lots. Fill in Cracks in the walking surfaces and address height elevation issues.
- Use traction strips or anti-skid paint. Anti-skid paint or Adhesive backed traction strips provide good traction in wet areas. Include signs that inform people there are slippery conditions present.

- Clean up spills immediately and place signs nearby advising people that there are unsafe conditions present.

- Use floor mats with beveled edges and backing that won't slide across floor.

Practice good habits

Good housekeeping plays a big role in preventing Slip and Fall, or Trip and Fall accidents. Clean, well lit, and organized work areas help prevent workplace injuries and should be:

- Free from clutter and organized. Remove objects that are blocking pathways and are trip and fall hazards. Extension wires and cables, boxes, and debris should be eliminated.
- Good Lighting. Use the appropriate illumination for work areas. Areas around light switches should also be free of obstacles and accessible.
- Keep poorly lit areas free of clutter and any obstructions that can be a trip and fall hazard.

- Close file cabinet and desk drawers after use. Doing so eliminates Trip and Fall Hazards.

Proper footwear

Just because it looks good doesn't mean it's the appropriate footwear for your work. A Slip and Fall can happen whenever there is a loss of traction between the shoe and walking surface. Heels or Soles can get caught in cracks or on uneven walking surfaces causing a Trip and Fall accident. Consider footwear that provides good traction on walking surfaces and, won't get caught and cause you to Trip and Fall.

Slip, Trip, and Falls are preventable. Proper footwear, good housekeeping of work areas, and proper maintenance of walking surfaces are ways you can eliminate Slip, Trip, and Fall hazards. Clear work areas of obstructions that could cause a Trip and Fall and, fill in any cracks that can catch your heel or sole of your footwear

Lastly, wear proper footwear that provides traction and protection along with comfort. Doing so can significantly reduce Slip, Trip, and Fall Hazard's and make your workplace much safer!

Analyze • Inform • Motivate



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About DTRIC Insurance Risk Consulting Services

The Risk Consulting Services team at DTRIC Insurance is designed to help you reduce accidents and injuries in the workplace. Our approach involves our proven **A.I.M.** process that is easy to understand and simple to implement.



ANALYZE

We start by helping you understand and assess your current situation with services including:

- Safety audits
- Property and liability hazard surveys
- Accident investigation training
- Graphical analysis
- Job hazard analysis

INFORM

Keeping your team members informed is essential to success. We'll help you:

- Develop a safety committee
- Provide educational resources
- Work with your management team to develop their skills and knowledge of regulations
- Address loss trends with training on key issues
- Open communications within your organization

MOTIVATE

The more safety is promoted in your workplace, the more motivated your team members will be to make safety a top priority. Whether you motivate with promotions, incentives or recognition, we'll help you develop a results-driven method to encourage safety at all times.

DTRIC's Risk Consulting Services team will work closely with you to create a program to effectively improve your bottom line.