

# Slips, Trips & Falls



# Safety Involves Everyone. Know your Rights.

## Right to Know

As a worker, you have the right to be informed by the employer of known or likely hazards in the workplace and to be provided with the information, instructions, education, training, and supervision necessary to protect your health and safety.

## Right to Participate

Allows workers to have input on the steps taken by the employer to ensure health and safety.

Workers can provide input on what would make the workplace safe.

## Right to Refuse

Normally used when the first two rights fail to ensure your health and safety.

However, workers should not be afraid to exercise their right to refuse when they believe the work will endanger their health or safety, or that of others.

## Right to Stop Work

Permits specified persons to stop work in "dangerous circumstances".

In most cases, it takes worker and management certified joint health and safety committee members to direct an employer to stop dangerous work (joint stoppage).



## Absolute Zero is our goal

Our Absolute Zero program solidifies our commitment to:

- ✓ Zero accidents
- ✓ Zero injuries
- ✓ Zero harm

**First** workforce solutions company to create and maintain a zero-injury program.

## What are slips, trips and falls?

There are two kinds of falls: same level or from height.

- › Same level falls can be caused by slippery and uneven surfaces, debris and tripping hazards, dark and obstructed pathways, and unsuitable footwear.
- › Falling from heights can be caused by working where there is a chance of falling more than three metres.

## What does the law say?

The *Occupational Health and Safety Act* (OHSA) requires that employers take every reasonable precaution to protect workers, provide information and instruction, and ensure that workers properly use or wear the required equipment. Employers, supervisors and workers can be prosecuted for not complying with the law.

Refer to industry-specific regulations for details on legislative compliance. Your health and safety association can provide this information to you.

## How can this hazard affect your business?\*

- › Each year there are about 17K lost-time injuries due to falls in the workplace.
- › 65% of all fall-related injuries are from "same level".
- › One in five lost-time injuries result from falls.
- › Every year about 20 people die in Ontario because of workplace falls.
- › 80 workers are injured every day because of a fall – that's one every 20 minutes.
- › An average WSIB claim is \$11,771. Factor in other costs like lost productivity and staff replacement, and the cost can be as much as 4 times more – approximately \$59K per injury.
- › With a profit margin of 5%, sales and/or services required to cover the total cost of one injury equals approximately \$1.2 million.

\*Source: WSIB "Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls in the Workplace"

# Employer Responsibilities.

## Employers must:

- › Take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of workers.
- › Provide information and instruction to workers to protect the health or safety of the workers.
- › Acquaint workers and Kelly representatives with any slip, trip, or fall hazard in the work and in the handling, storage, and use of any article, device, or equipment.

## These duties may involve:

- › Identifying and assessing the risk of job-specific slip, trip and fall hazards.
- › Establishing controls to eliminate or reduce workers' exposure to slip, trip and fall hazards.
- › Ensuring the control measures are working.





## Workers must:

- › Report known slip, trip or fall hazards to their Kelly Representative and On-site Client Supervisor.
- › Use or wear equipment, protective devices or clothing required by the employer.
- › Report to the Kelly Representative and On-site Client Supervisor the absence of or defect in any equipment or protective device of which they are aware, and which may endanger them or other workers.

**Trips happen when your foot collides (strikes, hits) an object causing you to lose balance and, eventually fall. Common causes of tripping are:**

- › Obstructed view
- › Poor lighting
- › Clutter in your way
- › Wrinkled carpeting
- › Uncovered cables
- › Bottom drawers not being closed
- › Uneven (steps, thresholds) walking surfaces





**Slips happen where there is too little friction or traction between the footwear and the walking surface, causing you to lose balance and, eventually fall. Common causes of slips are:**

- › Wet or oily surfaces
- › Occasional spills
- › Weather hazards
- › Loose, unanchored rugs or mats
- › Flooring or other walking surfaces that do not have the same degree of traction in all areas

# Slip, Trip and Fall Hazards.

## Consider these common slip, trip and fall hazards in your workplace:

- › Slippery surfaces (i.e., oily or greasy surfaces)
- › Seasonal slip, trip and fall hazards (i.e., snow and ice)
- › Spills of wet or dry substances
- › Changes in walkway levels and slopes
- › Unsecured mats
- › Unsafe use of ladders
- › Poor lighting
- › Falls from beds of trucks, trailers or loads
- › Debris and cables in walkways
- › Smoke, steam or dust obscuring view
- › Lack of guardrails on mezzanines and balconies
- › Unsuitable footwear
- › Poorly maintained equipment (i.e., ladders, fall arrest, etc.)







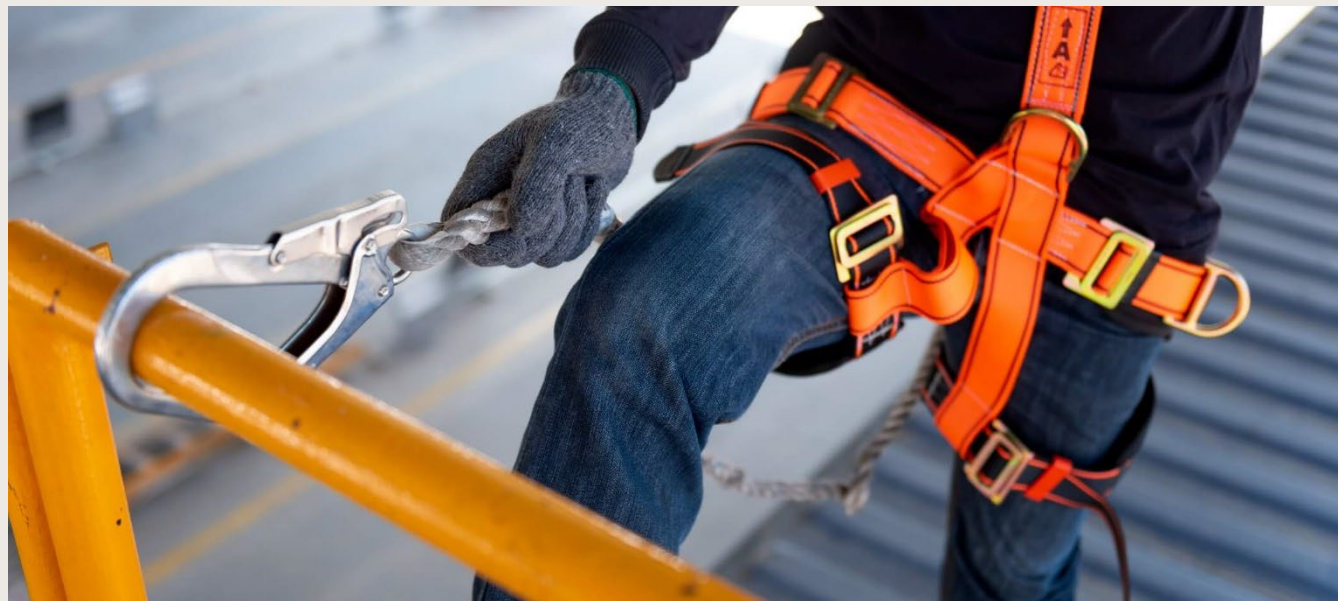
## You can reduce the risk of slipping on flooring by:

- › Taking your time and paying attention to where you are going.
- › Adjusting your stride to a pace that is suitable for the walking surface and the tasks you are doing.
- › Walking with the feet pointed slightly outward.
- › Making wide turns at corners.

## You can reduce the risk of tripping by:

- › Keeping walking areas clear from clutter or obstructions.
- › Keeping flooring in good condition.
- › Always using installed light sources that provide sufficient light for your tasks.
- › Using a flashlight if you enter a dark room where there is no light.
- › Making sure that things you are carrying or pushing do not prevent you from seeing any obstructions, spills, etc.

# Personal Protective Equipment.



- › Select appropriate footwear based on a risk assessment of the job task.
- › Wear proper-fitting footwear that may include slip-resistant soles.
- › Properly select, use and maintain fall protection equipment.

# Controlling Hazards.

## Consider these when establishing safe work practices:

- › Characteristics of physical work area
- › Weather conditions (i.e., snow, ice, rain, etc.)
- › Tasks performed
- › Workers' work practices

## Control measures for slip, trip and fall hazards may include:

- › Engineering controls
- › Administrative controls
- › Safe work practices
- › Personal protective equipment

### Engineering controls can include:

- › Slip-resistant flooring and mats
- › Slope of surface (i.e., ramps, handrails)
- › Surface free of obstructions/holes
- › Appropriate drainage

### Administrative controls can include:

- › Provide wet floor signage
- › Train workers to prevent slips, trips and falls
- › Establish safe work practices
- › Communicate a procedure for reporting hazards

- › Adequate lighting (minimize glare and contrast)
- › Minimize environmental influences (i.e., blocking wind, preventing wet surfaces from icing, etc.)
- › Guardrails for raised floors, mezzanines and balconies

- › Ensure prompt maintenance
- › Ensure shovels, mops and buckets are readily available
- › Conduct joint health and safety committee monthly inspections
- › Review slip, trip and fall incidents



- › **Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development:** Preventing slips, trips, and falls in the workplace  
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/preventing-slips-trips-and-falls-workplace#personal>
- › **Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS):** Prevention of Slips, Trips and Falls  
[https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety\\_haz/falls.html](https://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety_haz/falls.html)
- › **WorkSafeBC:** Slips, trips & falls  
<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/health-safety/hazards-exposures/slips-trips-falls>
- › **Government of Alberta:** Slips, trips and falls  
<https://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/slips-trips-and-falls>
- › **Workplace Safety & Prevention Services:** Slips, Trips & Falls  
<https://www.wsps.ca/resource-hub/slips-trips-and-falls>
- › **Public Services Health and Safety Association (PSHSA):** Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls  
<https://www.pshsa.ca/safe-environments/topics/slips-trips-falls>
- › **Safety Step Canada:** Workplace Safety and Preventing Slips and Falls  
<https://safetystepcanada.ca/blogs/news/workplace-safety-and-preventing-slips-and-falls>



**Questions? Contact**

**Please contact your Kelly Representative with any questions.**