

# TOOLBOX TALKS

## SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS

Toolbox Talks are designed to promote safety discussions and best practices on the jobsite. To see more Toolbox Talks, please visit [cat.com/toolboxtalks](http://cat.com/toolboxtalks).

According to the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, slip, trip and fall injuries have represented over 35% of all occupational injuries since 2002. Many of these injuries are caused by unsafe behaviors or decisions, and failure to correct unsafe conditions when they are recognized. Review the following list of tips to help reduce the number of these hazards in your workplace.

### SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS

- Clean slip hazards** on walking and working surfaces such as water, ice, snow, oil and grease. Repair leaking equipment, awnings and shelters immediately
- Walk; do not run** to your destination. Give yourself enough time to get where you are going
- Wear **shoes that have good tread** and are made of non-slip material (rubber)
- Watch where you are going while walking—**pay attention** and do not get distracted. Reading, writing, texting and doing similar tasks on an electronic device while walking is not safe behavior
- Always **familiarize yourself with the work area** and activities before starting
- Pick up hoses, cords, chains** and other similar hazards immediately after use and safely store them. Install retractable hose and cord reels if possible
- Maintain 3 points of contact** when climbing ladders and stairs. Use handrails
- Inspect walkways before lifting and carrying** something if your visibility to the ground is going to be obstructed
- Pick up and properly **dispose of banding and straps** when unpackaging materials and supplies
- Apply **non-slip tape to handrails, steps and walking surfaces** if necessary
- Pick up and **safely store brooms, shovels and tools**. Do not lean them against a vertical surface because they can fall over and become a trip hazards
- Routinely **inspect the condition of handrails, guardrails and guards**
- Always **use fall protection** if there is any possibility that you could be injured by a fall from your work area

### QUESTIONS TO GENERATE DISCUSSION:

- What behaviors cause the greatest risk of slip, trip and fall hazards in your workplace?
- What are some safe ways to properly store hoses, cords, brooms, shovels and other trip hazards?

Discussion Date:

Employee Participants:

  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  

The material in this document is provided for informational purposes only and not as a comprehensive or exhaustive resource on this topic. This material has been compiled from a multitude of sources believed to be accurate; however, Caterpillar Inc. assumes no responsibility for the accuracy or currency of this information and encourages you to consult experts in this area for more information. In no event does the content of this document supersede any applicable local, state or federal statutes or regulations.

There are a lot of moving parts on the jobsite. To find a safety topic relevant to your operation, please visit [cat.com/toolboxtalks](http://cat.com/toolboxtalks).