

Instructor Guide

Slips, Trips and Falls

Topic Overview (why the topic is important to the students)

Oil and other liquids, tools, vehicle parts, and trailing power cords are all potential causes of injury in automotive shops. Oil spills close to open work pits are especially hazardous. When the shop is not kept clean, the risk of slips, trips and falls is higher. These types of accidents are especially dangerous for automotive workers because of the risk of falling against a sharp tool or rusty part.

Although many slip, trip and fall injuries are relatively minor, such as sprained ankles and wrists, they are very costly in terms of time lost from work because they occur so frequently. Unfortunately, when a worker falls into an open pit, suffering a head injury or broken bone, the costs are much higher.

Demonstration and Discussion Topics

- **Discuss** housekeeping hazards in the shop, including oil spills, tools and parts, cluttered walkways, and the areas of the shop that are slipping and tripping hazards.
 - **Tour the shop** with the students, pointing out these hazards.
 - **Distribute** the student handout.
 - **Review** the safety tips.
 - **Remind** students that they are required to wear appropriate non-skid footwear.
 - **Explain** what can be done in the workplace to minimize the risk of slip, trip and fall injuries (e.g., flooring, lighting, cleaning procedures).
 - **Emphasize** that good housekeeping is mandatory. Make sure all students are trained in how to keep their work areas clean.
 - **Discuss** the attitude that “it won’t happen to me”. Remind them that an injury can and will happen if they take shortcuts or are careless.
- **Make it real.** Tell at least two true stories of injuries from your experience or use the following examples:
 - A worker was standing on a stool trying to reach an item on a high shelf. She slipped, fell, and fractured her skull on the concrete floor.
 - A worker slipped on an oil spill and fell against an engine part that he was repairing. The sharp metal sliced open his arm, requiring stitches.
 - **Instruct** the students to identify and report any safety concerns about slip, trip and fall hazards.
 - **Answer** any questions or concerns they might have.
 - **Set a good example** by working safely at all times.

Resources

- Prevention of slips, trips and falls http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety_haz/falls.html