



6-minute safety talk for woodworkers

Instructor Guide

Slips, Trips and Falls

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

Spilled oil and other liquids, tools, and trailing power cords are all potential causes of slip trip and fall injuries in woodworking shops. When the shop is not kept clean, the risk of slips, trips and falls is higher. These types of accidents are especially dangerous for woodworkers because of the risk of falling against a moving saw blade.

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. However, when a worker falls against a moving saw blade, the costs are much higher.

Demonstration and Discussion Topics

- **Discuss** housekeeping hazards in the shop, including oil and water 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 oily patch on the floor, falling against a saw blade and suffering a serious laceration to his arm.
- **Instruct** the students to identify and report any safety concerns about housekeeping 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