Slips, Trips & Same-Level Falls

TRADE: GENERAL CONSTRUCTION	LEADER GUIDE: 8-12 MINUTES	USE WHAT FITS TODAY

LEADER NOTE
Do not read this sheet word-for-word. Pick the sections that match today's task, point to the actual equipment/work area, and get the crew to answer the questions out loud.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Many injuries happen without a fall from height. Cords, uneven surfaces, debris and poor lighting are common causes. Same-level falls often start with ordinary conditions the crew has stopped noticing: cords, debris, uneven transitions, wet surfaces, poor lighting, materials in aisles, or a route that changed during the shift. The useful question is not whether people should "watch their step." It is what can be removed, rerouted, covered, dried, marked or repaired before someone trips or slips.

A SCENARIO TO DISCUSS
During Slips, Trips & Same-Level Falls, the field condition changes enough that the original plan no longer matches what the crew is actually doing. Nothing has gone wrong yet. What specific hazard and control should be rechecked before the next step?

BEFORE WORK STARTS

- Walk the normal route from the worker's point of view and mark every wet, uneven, obstructed or temporary condition.
- Remove or reroute cords, hoses, debris and stored material wherever possible instead of simply warning people about them.
- Secure floor protection, covers and transitions so edges cannot curl, shift or create a new trip point as traffic passes.
- Keep aisles, stairs and work areas free of debris, cords and loose material.
- Clean spills and wet areas promptly and mark them until dry.

SAFE WORK SEQUENCE / CONTROLS

- Keep aisles, stairs and work areas free of debris, cords and loose material.
- Clean spills and wet areas promptly and mark them until dry.
- Provide adequate lighting, especially at temporary steps, thresholds and level changes.
- Repair or clearly identify damaged flooring and uneven walking surfaces.
- Use designated access routes instead of stepping over barriers or stored material.

COMMON FAILURE POINTS

- Leaving a known trip/slip condition in place and relying on workers to remember it.
- Letting cords, hoses, floor protection or material creep back into an aisle after the initial cleanup.
- Cleaning one area without checking where water, debris or traffic is being redirected.

STOP AND RESET IF...

- The normal walking route is blocked, wet, uneven, poorly lit or changed enough that workers are stepping over or around an uncontrolled hazard.
- A temporary cover, transition, cord/hose route or stored material creates a trip edge that cannot be corrected or clearly controlled.
- Cleanup, drainage or housekeeping cannot keep pace with the work and the route is no longer reliably safe.

QUESTIONS THAT SHOULD CHANGE THE JOB

1. What is in the actual walking route today that could catch a boot, roll, shift, become slippery, or force someone to step around it?
2. Which condition can we eliminate right now instead of relying on signs, cones, or people remembering to avoid it?
3. Where do cords, hoses, thresholds, floor protection, debris, water or stored material cross the route, and how are we controlling each crossing?
4. Who owns housekeeping for this area as the work changes, and what condition means the route gets closed until it is corrected?
5. What specific hazard and control should be rechecked before the next step?

MAKE IT REAL ON THE JOB
Point to the actual hazard and have one crew member show the control that prevents the injury.

BEFORE YOU RELEASE THE CREW
Before the crew starts, everyone should be able to explain the hazard, point to the control being used today, and name the condition that would make the work stop.

Reference: 29 CFR 1926.25 - Housekeeping

LidLog

ATTENDANCE & SIGN-OFF

Slips, Trips & Same-Level Falls

Project / Job:		**Date:**	
Talk leader:		**Location:**	

CREW ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing, attendees confirm they participated in this toolbox talk and had the opportunity to raise job-specific questions. Signatures do not replace required training, qualifications, permits or certifications.

#	Name	Company / Trade	Signature
1			
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QUESTIONS / CONDITIONS / CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

END-OF-TALK CHECK

[ ] Crew can point to the main hazard.	[ ] Critical control is in place and usable.
[ ] The responsible person/check is clear.	[ ] Stop/re-brief conditions were discussed.