



## 078: Slipping Hazards

### *Oil, water, and other liquids*

Don't ignore floor puddles in the belief they will evaporate. If you came across a puddle before it evaporated, so can someone else. That person might not be as lucky as you.

Don't ignore spills. If you see a spill, clean it up. If it is too large to clean up, call for help or report it to the person in charge of the area.

If you clean up oil, surfactant, soap, or some other substance that tends to stick to surfaces, don't just wipe up what's visible and walk off. Make sure the floor is no longer slippery. A technique that often works is to grind oil absorbent or cat litter into the place where the substance was. Dispose of oil into approved containers only.

When cleaning up a spill, avoid stepping in it. That way, you don't track the mess to other areas or slip while attempting to clean up.

After a wire pull, ensure you have wiped up the lubricant.

### *Grime, dust, gravel, oil-dry and other solids*

General housekeeping will remove these hazards from floors. For example, lean up wire scraps after wire pulls and terminations.

Outdoors, loosely-packed gravel is always a hazard—be extra cautious.

### *Mud, grass, ice, and other slippery surfaces*

If you work outside, you may work on mud, grass, or ice. Each of these surfaces is slippery enough for you to fall and suffer serious injury. Take extra precautions such as carrying smaller loads, taking smaller and more deliberate steps, and being especially aware of your center of gravity.

A big danger from mud is mud caked on your shoes after you leave the muddy area. It can act like grease under your shoes as soon as you step from rough outdoor terrain onto a cement or tile floor. Clean your shoe bottoms before going inside.

### *Carrying things*

Nobody will give you a medal for playing Superman. How much you can carry is not as important as how much you can carry safely. If you are working around slippery surfaces, reduce how much you carry. Using a cart or other such device will help.

Don't carry loads that force you to lean back and thereby raise your center of gravity.

The amount of time on a slippery surface is less of a slipping issue than the degree to which you are off balance. You are better off crossing the surface many times while balanced than just once while unbalanced.

### *Your shoes*

If the bottoms are worn smooth or cracked, or if the heels show excessive wear on one side, replace your shoes.

### ***Discussion leader duties for this session:***

Bring a book that a crew member or two can use as part of a walking test.

### ***What this Safety Talk covers:***

How to reduce, eliminate, avoid, and cope with slipping hazards.

### ***Discussion notes :***

