

# Slips, Trips and Falls

## Toolbox Presentation



# Slips, Trip and Falls are a BIG problem

Slip, trip and fall injuries cost the UK approaching  
**£1 billion**

**57%**  
of major/ specified injuries are caused by Slips Trips and Falls

**Over 1.5 million**  
lost working days caused by Slips, Trips and Falls. (2013/14)

Slips, Trips and Falls cost employers over  
**£512 million**  
in lost production

**36%**  
of all reportable accidents are due to Slips, Trips and Falls

**42 fatalities**  
in 2013/14 caused by Slips, Trips and Falls

# But first a word on competence

- Construction is a dangerous industry
- Improving competence is key to reducing accidents
- It's people that often cause accidents
- Competence is skills, knowledge and behaviour
- Competence is thinking about:
  - Self-awareness: get to know yourself
  - Situational awareness: expect the unexpected
  - Risk awareness: think outside the box



# Self-awareness get to know yourself

- Think about YOURSELF and your role
- Consider your frame of mind
- Late nights and hang-overs can affect judgement
- Domestic disputes and emotional upsets affect concentration
- All these can affect performance and safety



# Situational awareness expect the unexpected

- Don't assume today will be the same as yesterday. Things change
- Take note of the broader context in which you work
- Stop and think about what's going on around you
- Things change so expect the unexpected risk



# Risk awareness think outside the box

- Risk awareness is more than risk assessment
- It recognises the additional risks of:
  - Age
  - Inexperience
  - Poor eyesight
  - Fading light
  - Language
- Consider out-of-context risk due to new jobs and unfamiliar surroundings



# What are Slips, Trips and Falls?

Slips, Trips and Falls are hard to define as they are any incident in the workplace where there is a stumble or loss of balance for any external reason, this makes them high priority on the health and safety agenda.

## Main causes:

- Uneven floor surfaces
- Unsuitable floor coverings
- Wet floors
- Changes in levels
- Trailing cables
- Poor lighting
- Poor housekeeping



# What does the law say?

## **The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974**

This act requires employers to ensure the health and safety of all employees. This included taking steps to control slip and trip risks. Employees have the duty to not put themselves or other in danger and must use safety equipment provided.

## **The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992**

This act requires floors to be suitable, in good condition and free from obstructions. People should be able to move around safely.

## **The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999**

This act requires employers to assess the risks ( including slip and trip risks) and, where necessary, take action to address them.

## **The Work at Height Regulations (2005)**

The Work at Height Regulations Act is often incorporated in discussions about Slips, Trips and Falls as it's regulations overlap those of the above mentioned in the 1974 act. This act requires employers to provide personal protection and adequate equipment to prevent death from falls from height.



# Who is affected?

**EVERYONE** working on a building site is affected by Slips, Trips and Falls as a potential hazard, without exception!



# Assessing Slips, Trips and Falls

The HSE has recommended a five step approach to risk assessment in the workplace.

<b>STEP 1</b>	Look for slip and trip hazards around the workplace. (including floor coverings, uneven floors and trailing cables)
<b>STEP 2</b>	Decide who might be harmed and how. Are some groups at risk more than others?
<b>STEP 3</b>	Consider the risks. Are there already measures in place to deal with the risks? Are floor coverings suitable for the area?
<b>STEP 4</b>	Record findings if you have five or more employees.
<b>STEP 5</b>	Regularly review the assessments.

# Reducing and Controlling Slips, Trips and Falls

Employers have a duty to make sure they protect people in the workplace from the risks of slips, trips and falls but everyone can help to avoid such accidents.

Reducing the risks is usually easy, costs little or no money and often has other benefits such as actually being able to help control the number of incidents that occur.

# Reducing and Controlling Slips, Trips and Falls (continued)

**Spillages:** Clean up all spillages immediately and use appropriate signs to tell people the floor is still wet and that extra care is needed. Alternatively use another route until the spillage or wetness is gone.

**Trailing cables:** Try to place equipment to avoid cables crossing pedestrian routes and use cable guards to cover cables where required. Use cordless equipment wherever possible

**Change of surface from wet to dry:** Ensure suitable footwear is worn, warn off risks by using signs and locate doormats where these changes are likely.

**Rugs or mats:** Where they cannot be eliminated make sure rugs or mats are securely fixed and that edges do not present a trip hazard.

# Reducing and Controlling Slips, Trips and Falls (continued)

**Slippery floor surfaces:** Assess the cause of the slipperiness and treat accordingly, for example, treat chemically and use appropriate cleaning materials and methods. In some cases you may need to repair or replace the floor surfaces.

**Changes in level and slopes:** Improve visibility, lighting, provide hand rails and add tread, alerts or other floor marking.

Also, Speedy has a number of sales products, hire products and training programs that can help reduce and control Slips, Trips and Falls.

**Poor lighting:** Improve lighting levels and placement of lighting to provide a more even lighting level over all floor areas.

**Footwear:** Ensure workers choose suitable footwear with the correct type of sole. If the work requires special protective footwear, the employer should provide it free of charge.

# Summary

- Everyone on a building is at risk of Slips, Trips and Falls
- Over half of major/specified injuries are caused by Slips, Trips and Falls
- Over a third of all reportable accidents were caused by Slips, Trips and Falls
- Hazards are numerous e.g. uneven surfaces, poor lighting, trailing cables
- There is a full range of equipment available



# Quick quiz

1. How much do Slips, Trips and Falls cost employers per year?
2. What are two of the main causes of Slips, Trips and Falls in the workplace?
3. How many pieces of legislation are related to Slips, Trips and Falls?
4. How many steps are involved in the assessment in the workplace?
5. How many people died due to Slips Trips and Falls according to the latest government statistics?

**Remember you are responsible for your safety and that of your mates**

