

Don't trip into winter

Identifying a tripping hazard

Did you know?

- Winter presents a changing landscape from what a worker can be normally used to that can lead to tripping hazards not present in other seasons – such as ice buildup, new equipment on a work site, and using different personal protective equipment (e.g. specialized footwear).

What are winter tripping hazards

It is important that employees and employers work together to identify tripping hazards. Abrupt changes in walking surfaces can present tripping hazards.

Workers should adapt walking styles and pay attention to walking paths to reduce trips. Workers should:

- Keep as few objects as possible on walking and working surfaces.
- Eliminate or bring awareness to abrupt changes in walking surface height.
- Clean your shoes when you go inside; caked snow and ice on shoe soles can be treacherous.
- Clear ice and snow as soon as possible, as well as the equipment used in this process.

Everyone on the worksite has the responsibility to reduce tripping hazards. If you identify a tripping hazard, you should:

- Clear the area as soon as possible.
- Report to your supervisor.

Shop Talk for Supervisors

- Look at all aspects of the work.
- Include non-routine activities such as maintenance, repair, or cleaning.
- Look at accident / incident / near-miss records.
- Look at how work is organized or done (include people doing the work, systems being used, etc)

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