Slips, trips and falls toolbox talk

Site order · about 5 minutes · read it out, or say it in your own words

SITE OR JOB	DATE	PRESENTER

Falling on the level sounds minor, but on a building site you land on concrete, rebar, rubble and tools. A trip while carrying blocks or a slip on wet shutter oil can mean a broken wrist, a back injury or a fall into a trench or off an unprotected edge.

SAY THIS

It happens on flat ground

When we talk about falls, people think of roofs and scaffolds. But many site injuries happen on flat ground: someone slips on mud, catches a foot on a lead, or steps into a hole. On site you do not land on carpet. You land on concrete, steel, bricks and tools. A simple trip can put you off work for weeks.

What makes us slip

Water, mud, wet clay, oil, shutter release, cement slurry, sawdust and loose sand on smooth surfaces. Plastic sheeting and cardboard laid on the floor are like ice when wet. If you spill something, clean it up or cover it with sand straight away and warn the people around you. Do not walk away and leave it for the next person.

What makes us trip

Leads and hoses across walkways, offcuts, loose bricks, rebar ends, uneven ground, potholes and open service holes. Walkways and the way in and out of every work area must stay clear. Run leads and hoses along the sides or overhead. Cover or barricade holes, and mark rebar ends. If you see something in a walkway, move it. Do not step over it.

Stairs, steps and changes in level

Unfinished stairs, ramps and steps cause bad falls. Use the handrail. If there is no handrail yet, tell your supervisor. Watch for a step down from a slab, a kerb or the back of a trench. Make sure areas you work in at the start or end of the day have enough light to see the ground. A torch is better than guessing.

How we move

Walk, do not run, even when we are behind. Keep your phone in your pocket while you walk. Do not carry loads so high that you cannot see your feet. Make two trips or get help. Take the proper walkway, not the shortcut over the rubble pile. Wear safety boots with a good grip, laced up, and replace them when the soles are worn smooth.

CHECK ON SITE TODAY

- [ ] Walk the main routes on site and point out any leads, hoses or materials lying across them.
- [ ] Look for wet, muddy or oily patches and decide how to clean, cover or drain them.
- [ ] Check that holes, service openings and trench edges near walkways are covered or barricaded.
- [ ] Look at stairs and ramps: are handrails in place, and is there enough light?
- [ ] Check the soles of a few pairs of boots for wear.
- [ ] Agree where offcuts and loose materials will be put so they do not end up underfoot.

ASK THE CREW

- ? Where on this site have you nearly slipped or tripped in the last week?
- ? Which walkway is most often blocked, and why do things end up there?
- ? What jobs make you carry loads where you cannot see the ground?
- ? What would make getting around this site safer at the start and end of the day?

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR THIS JOB

Safety boots with slip-resistant soles in good condition, laced up · A head torch or hand torch where light is poor

THE LAW

Construction Regulations, 2014, regulation 27: Housekeeping and general safeguarding on construction sites; Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993, section 8: General duties of employers to their employees; Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993, section 14: General duties of employees at work. What each one says, in plain words, with links: sitediary.co.za/toolbox-talks/slips-trips-falls/

Toolbox talk attendance register

TOPIC

Slips, trips and falls

DATE

SITE OR JOB

TIME

PRESENTER

COMPANY

PRESENTER SIGNATURE

By signing, I confirm that I attended this toolbox talk, that it was given in a language I understand, and that I could ask questions.

NO.	NAME AND SURNAME	COMPANY OR TRADE	SIGNATURE
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Keep this register in the site health and safety file. Log the talk in today's site diary with a photo of this page.