Toolbox talk

Slips, trips and falls

Housekeeping, mud and ice, footwear, stairs and watching the path ahead.

Slips and trips happen during routine work, when nobody's expecting them. Most come from poor housekeeping, uneven or slick ground, and carrying material without watching where you're going.

Key point **Clear the walkway before the work starts, and keep it clear.**

Housekeeping and walkways

Housekeeping is where slip prevention starts. Scrap, cords, hoses and tools left in walkways are instant trip hazards, especially in high-traffic areas.

Keep paths clear, get rid of scrap as you go, and keep laydown areas organized. Make housekeeping part of the daily inspection.

Weather, mud and ice

Outdoor surfaces change all day. Rain, mud, frost and ice can turn a normal path into a hazard in minutes. Slow down, test your footing before you commit, and wear boots with real traction.

Grit, salt, mats or plywood help for a while. Sometimes the right call is to close off the area until it's fixed.

Footwear and paying attention

The best site controls don't help if your boots are worn out or wrong for the ground. Look for solid tread and ankle support suited to the weather and terrain.

Watch the transitions, like gravel to concrete, concrete to mud and mud to steel deck. A lot of slips happen when someone's carrying too much, looking at a phone or rushing through a crowded area.

Stairs, ramps and elevated walkways

Trips aren't only a ground-level problem. Keep stairs clear and lit, and keep a hand on the rail. Temporary stairs, ramps and platforms need to be secured, fully decked and checked for loose or damaged boards.

Use the designated access points. Don't jump off equipment or climb over barriers.

Ask the crew

1. What's in our walkways right now that shouldn't be?
2. How will today's weather change the ground we're working on?
3. Where are we cutting corners on access instead of using the stairs or ladder?

Crew sign-in

Slips, trips and falls

Date _____ **Site or project** _____

Presented by _____ **Company** _____

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Signing means you attended this talk and had the chance to ask questions.