

How to Prevent Slips, Trips and Falls at Same Level Revision

Did you know that 29.7% of MIIA members' Workers Compensation claims from 7/1/2018 -2/1/2023 were due to slips, trips, and falls on the same level?

Fall from Same Level

45%

Fall Outside pr

2%

Fall on Stairs

7%

Fall Different Level

8%

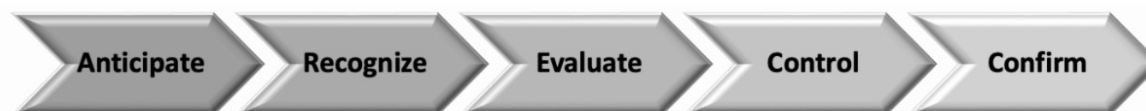
Tripped/Turned

20%

Slip on Ice or Snow

18%

ARECC Strategy for Management of STF at the Same Level



Anticipate: Identify Predictable STF Hazards in Areas

- In Buildings - entrance transition from outdoors where moisture collects, transition from one flooring surface type to another, slight unmarked changes in elevation, unsecured rugs/mats, contaminants on floor, unsecured cords, etc.
- On Building Grounds – elevated tree roots, cracks in hardscape, gravel or mud migrating onto walkways, changes from one surface type to another, etc.

Recognize:

- Inspect indoor and outdoor high-risk areas where employees will be walking and working. Conduct on a scheduled basis as well as during and after weather events to identify timely control methods.

Evaluate: Assess Hazards

- In Buildings – Water collecting in entranceways from outdoors, transitions from one flooring surface type to another, slight unmarked changes in elevation, unsecured rugs and mats, damaged flooring.
- On Building Grounds – Elevated tree roots in walkways, gravel or mud migrating onto surfaces, cracks and buckles in hardscape, changes in surface types, etc. Please note hazards present prior to a storm are often exacerbated during and after the event (e.g., irregularities may become more pronounced, soil under cracks in hardscape may become further undermined by water).

Control:

- Implement control measures (e.g., implement policies, work practices, and training; conduct maintenance and repairs; provide supplies, equipment, and PPE; etc.).

Confirm:

- Monitor hazardous conditions, control measures, and employee wellbeing to be sure controls are working.

How to Apply the ARECC Strategy

Assign Roles and Responsibilities Throughout Organization and Integrate into Policies, Work Practices and Training

- One aspect of custodian's work that puts them at high risk is cleaning other people's spaces that they have no control over. High risk scenarios include cluttered workspaces, use of electrical and technology cords etc., drawers left open, overcrowded and unorganized storage areas, etc. The administration can require staff to organize spaces and prepare spaces for cleaning at the end of the day, including putting chairs on desks.
- Determine schedule and responsibilities for monitoring and mitigating hazardous conditions during the day as occupants use the building (e.g., water from water fountain dripping on the floor, water tracked through locker rooms, grease from cooking, etc.). Provide training and supervision on floor stripping, use of signage, spill clean-up, etc.

Obtain Supplies and Equipment

- PPE - Require or provide slip resistant footwear for employees responsible for floor refinishing, working in the kitchen, working bus duty, snow and ice management, etc.
- Signs - Obtain enough signs for use where contaminants (e.g., oil, water, particulates) are anticipated to be deposited on floor surfaces that potentially pose trip hazards.
- Spill Supplies – Identify the types and locations of spills to be managed, obtain supplies specific for the spill (e.g., oil or water based) to be managed, and distribute supplies.
- Equipment – Obtain equipment and technology that eliminates the potential for trips. Replace corded equipment with battery operated equipment, use reel systems that coil hoses and cords, use WIFI instead of wired connections, etc.
- Storage Equipment – Purchase equipment to safely organize items that pose trip hazards. Items on poles such as shovels, rakes, etc. can be hung or put in a barrel, garden hoses and vacuum hoses and electrical cords can be hung or put on a shelf, etc

Mitigate Trip Hazards on the Exterior of Buildings, Grounds, Playgrounds, Walkways, Parking Lots, Crosswalks, and Pick-UP/Drop-Off

Monitor and manage existing hazards, and the potential creation of new hazards from periodic weather events (e.g., high winds, heavy rainstorms, and extreme events (e.g., hurricanes).

- Remove leaves (e.g., obscures surface), obstacles (e.g., branches), and contaminants on the surfaces (e.g., that cause the foot to slip or roll on the surface).
- Repair drainage problems and reroute drainage pipes away from depositing water onto grounds where it can undermine hardscape or create depressions in the ground.
- Post, mark, or close off areas where the hardscape is cracked or buckled.

Mitigate Trip Hazards on the Interior of Buildings: Housekeeping and Cleaning Operations

- Remove contaminants (e.g., oil), obstacles on floor or slightly elevated (e.g., cords, open drawers, bunched up rugs and mats, brooms against the wall) in walkways in a timely way.
- Clean spills immediately. Use wet floor signs when mopping or cleaning spills. Remove them away immediately when area is dry to prevent occupants from ignoring them.
- Organize spaces to allow adequate room for safe occupant movement. MIIA data has identified table and chair legs as major causes for trips and falls.
- Designate and mark walkways through storage and work areas for safe passage.
- Use a slip resistant cleaning product, finish, mat, etc. on extremely slippery flooring.