As the temperature drops, the number of slips and falls rises. Winter’s wet and icy conditions are dangerous and workplaces need to take the right precautions.

A few important actions can make a big difference to everyone’s safety.

How to prevent falls

- Keep parking lots and walkways clear of mud, snow and ice
  - Don’t get caught by surprise -- monitor the weather and expect slippery conditions
  - Clear ice and snow before workers need to get into or out of the parking lot
  - Use salt, sand or another proven anti-slip material to keep lots and walkways clear
  - Have shovels and gloves available before icing conditions appear
  - Ensure workers wear appropriate footwear for conditions

- Provide good lighting and clear path markings in lots and walkways

- Clearly identify steps, ramps and other elevation changes

How to build a falls program that works...

- Set standards
  - for the condition of your parking lot & paths
  - for appropriate footwear and safety gear

- Define everyone’s role in preventing slips and falls

- Communicate roles and standards to all staff

- Train workers responsible for keeping lots and walkways clear

- Check that standards are met and that the program works

- Acknowledge success and make improvements

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Why be concerned about slips & falls?

Every year, tens of thousands of workers – many of those right here in Ontario – are killed or injured due to Slips & Falls. It’s time to stop the injuries and pain:

- 20% of all workplace injuries are caused by Slips & Falls, and all are preventable
- Over 18,000 injuries a year at 10,000 workplaces in Ontario are due to Slips & Falls
- The average time lost from a workplace injury is six weeks, unless, of course, it’s a death, in which case – it’s forever

Working around trucks and loading docks can be deadly! Watch your footing. Beware of obstacles. And don’t think that a “small height” can’t kill you or injure you for life.

Think prevention and let’s give “falls the slip” this winter!

Always have a safety railing or wear a harness when working near a fall hazard (new SkyHook for use with containers and railcars shown here).

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Slips and Falls Hurt Us All.

Lost time claims in Ontario from Slips & Falls (2002)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Claims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAME LEVEL FALLS</td>
<td>10,786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FROM HEIGHTS</td>
<td>5,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLIPS</td>
<td>2,326</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

A STAGGERING TOLL!

Hazards at Work Series January 2004

From your WSIB Service Delivery Team and the Prevention Division at the WSIB

For more information, visit our website: www.wsib.on.ca

From your WSIB Service Delivery Team. This sheet is available for download as both an information sheet and a mini-poster. Please see “Reference > Prevention” on our website. Other falls related resources are:

- Preventing Slips, Trips and Falls in the workplace (2130A/B)
- Slip or Trip hazard Warning Sticker (5027A)
- Your Guide to Developing a Workplace Health and Safety Policy and Program (Fact Sheet 5136)