



# Winter Slips & Falls



# Alert!

**WSIB** Workplace Safety & Insurance Board  
**ONTARIO**  
**CSPAAT** Commission de la sécurité professionnelle et de l'assurance contre les accidents du travail

## Slips and Falls Hurt Us All.

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 walk ways clear
- Check that standards are met and that the program works
- Acknowledge success and make improvements



### A STAGGERING TOLL!

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

## 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).



Safety starts with you  
[www.wsib.on.ca](http://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)