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NWOWS OH&S Book: Part 2: Slips, Falls, and Heights

Slips and Falls

Slips and falls can occur easily at an outdoor site, where footing is not uniform, and debris is everywhere.

Common hazards:

- slippery surfaces (oil, clay, grease, wet vegetation, snow, ice)
- unconsolidated surfaces (sand, snow, brush, debris)
- changes in elevation, levels, or slopes (visible and not)
- poor lighting

Control the hazard, employees are to clean their work site, especially outdoor sites before beginning work. This may mean, but not limited to removing logs, branches, tall grass, brush, stones, etc from a site.

When working in a slippery environment all lifting is to be done in pairs, in a coordinated manner - in this fashion if one employee should fall while carrying a load the other can help to control how the load falls (away from the falling employee). In addition during slippery conditions the supervisor is to remind all employees to take their time and work at such a pace that they will decrease the chances of slipping or falling.

Housekeeping - to some extent outdoor sites need to be properly kept (housekeeping) - in terms controllable of tripping and slipping hazards, such as extension cords, shovels, etc. At the yard and indoors housekeeping is just as important, especially because an indoor or controlled work yard can be made 100% clear and free of slipping hazards - there is no excuse to poor housekeeping. Supervisors are to ensure that employees put away all tools and supplies they are not currently and immediately using to help prevent slips and falls.

Working at Heights

Employees are to avoid climbing into the back of a pickup whenever possible. If you must enter the back of a pickup, use the two contacts method: two points of contact must always exist between you and the truck - that means if you want to move your foot you must be holding onto the truck with a hand.

Currently no employee is to work at a height of **8 feet (2.4 meters) or greater**.

We are in the process of training all employees in fall arrests, and finishing the procedures for working at heights. Until we are done, no employee is to climb or work at a height greater than 8 feet.

*** this section is to be updated when fall arrest training is complete and fall arrests are on hand***
- refer to MOL doc for help