

Walking Surfaces

Recognizing the Hazard

- Falls are the leading cause of death in construction.
 - Exposures to be aware of include areas such as poor housekeeping, uneven surfaces, damaged flooring or walkways, wet surfaces or standing water in walkways, unclear pathway to the nearest EXIT, blocked aisles and passageways, no covers or guardrails for obvious openings, floor loading tests and max load notice protection.

Questions to Ask

- Are floors clean and dry?
- Are permanent aisles and passageways properly marked and kept clear?
- Are load limit weights posted on mezzanine storage areas?
- Is adequate light provided in work areas and at the job site?
- Is there a clear and marked path to the nearest emergency exit?
- Are the “prep” stations kept clean and free of trip hazards?
- Are hatchway and floor openings properly guarded?
- Are fixed industrial stairways at least 22 inches wide, and provided with proper railings?

Controlling Hazards

- **Guard every floor hole or opening** which a worker can accidentally walk into. Use a railing and toe-board or a floor hole cover.
- **Provide a guardrail, mid rail, and toe-board** around every elevated open-sided platform, floor or runway.
- **Regardless of height**, if a worker can fall into or onto dangerous machines or equipment, guardrails, mid rail, and toe-boards are to be present to prevent workers from falling.
- **Limit and control the access zones** in the job site that have recognized fall hazards.
- **Provide safety monitoring systems** such as caution tape, signs, barriers, or personnel.
- **Confirm “Hard Hat Required” signage** is placed below any open areas to limit injury from falling objects.
- **Develop a slip, trip and fall protection plan**, even if it is a limited-use plan.
- **Provide training and documentation** in the recognition of slip, trip or fall hazards and controls.

Date of Safety Talk _____

Company _____

Talk given by _____

Signature _____

Attending Employees:

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Notes:

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