

11.2.4 SLIP, TRIP AND FALL PREVENTION

PURPOSE:

Baylor University's "Fall Prevention Guidelines" require that employees exposed to a potential free-fall greater than four feet must receive fall protection training and implement proper fall prevention methods. Employees will never be required nor allowed to perform any duties which require the employee to get closer than six feet to an unprotected edge, platform or walkway of any building, nor to utilize elevated equipment unless the employee is properly secured from falling four feet or more. Employees are also restricted from stepping across any elevated opening greater than 12 inches when that opening is elevated 4 feet or more above a walking/working surface.

The International Society for Fall Protection states that "in one year, fall-related accidents account for more than 800,000 injuries and 13,000 fatalities in North America." An estimated \$40 billion was spent as a result of these accidents. Accidents and fatalities involving falls could be reduced by establishing clear, enforceable, and consistent rules.

SCOPE:

The OSHA Fall Protection Standard deals with both human and equipment-related issues in protecting workers from fall hazards. This standard is designed to prevent workers from falling off, into, or through working levels and to protect employees from being struck by falling objects.

RESPONSIBILITY:

It is easy to prevent falling accidents. Employees should always follow good housekeeping practices and pay attention to their environment to avoid slips and falls.

In addition, employees should follow these guidelines:

- A. Turn on office lights. Ensure that passageways are adequately lighted.
- B. Avoid horseplay.
- C. Avoid unnecessary haste. Do not run in work areas.
- D. Use ladders or step-stools to reach high places. Never climb onto air, drawer, or shelves.
- E. Keep hallways and stairwells neat and free of obstacles.
- F. Remove items that may pose a potential slipping hazard.
- G. Clean up spills as soon as they occur.
- H. Never obstruct your view when walking.
- I. Do not wear clothing that is too long or shoes that have slippery heels or soles.
- J. Hold the handrail when using stairs.

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- K. Be careful when walking on wet surfaces or when entering a building while wearing wet shoes.
- L. Report uneven surfaces, such as loose or missing floor tiles, to the Physical Plant for repair.

Formulated:

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