

Three ways plant managers can reduce slip, trip and fall accidents

It's the \$11 billion question – how can US industry avoid slip, trip and fall (STF) accidents on the job? That's how much those types of workplace accidents cost manufacturers and other employers each and every year. Fortunately, this costly question has a few relatively easy answers.



1 Take advantage of the right materials and tools

Traditional tools like shop rags may seem the default choice, however, a new generation of paper and synthetic wipers designed to absorb specific types of liquids may work faster, clean more thoroughly and leave behind less potentially-toxic residue than rags.



2 Create a culture with clean and safety at the center

Safety concerns might seem to be the sole province of plant manager or line workers. An effective approach to safety, however, involves more than policy, programs or the occasional poster in the lunchroom – it requires total organizational commitment.

Employees need to be educated on:



The danger, to them and their work, of slips, trips and falls



Proper cleaning protocols for their workspace – both for routine cleaning and spill clean-ups



How to spot and prevent STF hazards



Selection and proper use of work gear, from correct materials, to the disposal of maintenance supplies

Welcome OSHA inspectors as expert consultants

The real leaders in industrial safety know they can count on a powerful partner for practically free consulting: The Occupational Health and Safety Administration. While some dread the thought of inspection, others realize it is the perfect opportunity to have experts point out problem areas and prescribe remedies before they emerge as costly accidents.



65%

of lost workdays are the result of STF accidents

Sources: 7 Ways to Improve Operations Without Sacrificing Worker Safety – Harvard Business Review | Business Costs of Slips, Trips and Falls – BIC magazine | Slips, Trips and Falls: An Untapped ROI Opportunity – Ergoweb
Slip, Trip and Fall Prevention Training – National Safety Council

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