Slips, trips, & falls are among the leading causes of injuries to employees and are the second highest workers' compensation claim filed in the U.S.

Falls are the 3rd leading cause of workplace fatalities.

In 2003, work-related slips, trips, & falls accounted for:
- 696 fatalities
- 257,100 injuries

**COMMON CAUSES OF SLIPS, TRIPS, & FALLS:**

- Uncovered cords, cables, and wires in walkways
- Material, equipment, and furniture in walkways and stairs
- Loose floor tiles, rugs and mats
- Poor housekeeping, e.g., dust or debris on floor and stairs
- Wrinkled carpet
  - Wet or oily floors/surfaces
  - Un-cleaned spills
  - Wet floors during inclement weather
  - Wet floors due to cleaning activities
  - Improper use of ladders, or using chairs and tables to reach
  - Carrying loads while descending stairs
  - Failure to use stair hand railing
- Failure to maintain 3 points of contact when ascending or descending equipment or ladder
• Inappropriate footwear, e.g., wearing high heel shoes in winter conditions

PREVENTION

• Follow good housekeeping practices
• Removing hazards from walkways, no matter how small
• Mats, rugs, and carpets should be secured
• Cover or re-route cables and cords that cross walkways
• Repair damaged flooring
• Provide barriers or signage for spills and wet areas until cleaned or dry
• Clean spills immediately
• During inclement weather position mats or rugs at entrances
• Maintain 3 points of contact when ascending or descending equipment or a ladder
• Position slip resistant strips on slick surfaces, e.g. stair treads
• Footwear should be appropriate for job and weather/environmental conditions