

Introduction

All slips, trips and falls have the potential to become lost time injuries. Around 29% of injuries reported are caused by slips, trips and falls, and in 2016/17, this accounted for over 20,000 reportable injuries in industry¹. In addition to the obvious incidents that can occur in work areas, incidents can also occur in other areas such as the entry/exit of vehicles, in the car parks and canteens.

Hazards

- Unsafe ladders, steps and scaffolds.
- Slippery surfaces and improper footwear for the working environment.
- Sudden change in surfaces and conditions or uneven flooring.
- Environmental factors such as lighting, ensuring walkways are wide enough
- Obstructions in and on floors and walkways.
- Poor lighting.
- Access to / from vehicles.

Learning points

Inspect ladders and steps prior to working and ensure that the ladder is set on firm, level ground at the correct incline (1 in 4). Use two hands whilst climbing, do not over reach when working from a ladder. When a harness or fall arrestors are being worn, remember to check the condition of the equipment before use and check that people know how to use them.

Inspect scaffolds prior to using and ensure that the scaffold is complete, the working platforms are clear from tripping hazards and, in the case of mobile scaffolds, the castors are locked to prevent movement. Scaffolds should have been checked by trained & qualified persons

Safe access and egress from vehicles, face the vehicle using three points of contact.

Avoid slips by keeping watch for hazardous working conditions - wet floors, icy areas, oil and grease for example. Promptly clean up any spillages, do not leave it for someone else.

Avoid trips by maintaining a good standard of housekeeping and ensure that materials are stored and access-ways are kept clear.

Avoid falls by using fully guarded work platforms. Where this is impracticable, fall arrestors and harnesses must be clipped onto a solid structure at all times whilst working at height.

Use designated walkways particularly in hazardous areas like plant rooms where there are raised surfaces that often cover pipework.

¹ RIDDOR statistics 2016/17