

## **Toolbox Talk # 11.07 – Walking and Working Surfaces I**

One of the highest categories of work-related injuries and deaths is the category of slips, trips and falls. Although many assume that falls occur at great heights, they actually occur, for the most part, at heights less than 35 ft. A surprising number of them occur at ground level or very near ground level.

These accidents are caused by:

- Failure to cover or barricade openings in elevated floors, decks, walls, roofing, excavations, trenches and wall openings.
- Failure to keep work areas clear of debris and obstructions.
- Failure to create and maintain unobstructed pathways to, in and around work areas.
- Failure to provide or maintain adequate ladders, ramps, scaffolds and platforms.
- Failure to provide fall protection when that is the only feasible means of safety, or failure of employees to use protective measure when available.
- Failure to maintain platforms, ramps, scaffolds, walking lanes and other walking or working surfaces in snow, ice or wet conditions.

The only way to prevent these accidents and injuries is to plan the work thoroughly and carry out those plans. Make sure all the items needed are available, they are designed and built to provide the necessary protection and they are used.

All walking and working surfaces should be maintained free of debris, obstructions and slippery conditions. In winter or rainy weather, snow, ice and mud shall be removed from walkways and working surfaces. Slippery conditions can be mitigated by the use of sand, salt and/or chicken boards.

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Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Other safety issues covered or comments from crew members:

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### Attendees:

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