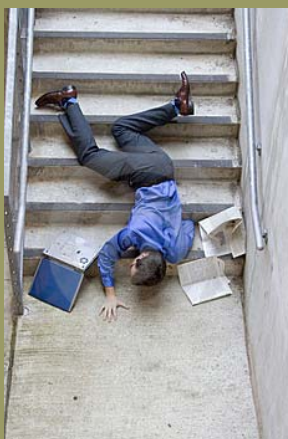


Slip & Fall Prevention



*EH&S Fact Sheet
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Did you know that falls and fall-related injuries...

- Are more common than strokes and can be just as serious in their consequences?
- Are the most preventable cause of individuals needing nursing home placement?
- Lead to problems with daily activities like dressing, bathing, and walking?
- In the United States, account for 16% of all Emergency Room visits and almost 7% of all hospitalizations?

Did you also know that the consequences of falls result in:

- Over 90% of broken hips and only half of those who break their hip will regain normal function;
- Head injuries and/or death;
- Deterioration of overall health; and
- Reduction in routine activities because the injured parties fear they may fall again.

In 2007, nearly 25% of the workplace injuries at USC occurred as a result of a slip, trip or fall. Many of these injuries can be prevented if necessary precautions are followed.

Factors that contribute to slips and falls:

- Tripping hazards at home and in the workplace;
- Problems walking or moving around;
- Foot problems or improper footwear;
- Dizziness from blood pressure dropping too much upon standing;
- Vision problems;
- Taking multiple medications and/or medications that cause dizziness; and
- Behaviors such as being distracted, not watching where one is going, carrying materials which obstruct view, wearing sunglasses in low-light areas, and failing to use handrails.

Work areas should have slip resistant flooring, especially in entryways. Regular frequent inspections of your work areas should be conducted to identify hazards which could cause slips, trips and falls. Special attention should be given to walking surfaces, housekeeping, lighting, and stairways. Immediate corrective action should be taken. Everyone must make a commitment to prevent accidental slips, trips and falls.

Please contact EH&S at 213-740-6448 for more information.

EH&S Fact Sheets are intended to facilitate team discussions in your department. Post the monthly topic on your departmental bulletin board.