



SAFETY



CONVERSATION



WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO LEARN

In this safety conversation you will learn about risks of slips, trips and falls associated with weather and other environmental factors. In this country we very often talk about the weather, so getting to grips with this topic should be a breeze!

HOW IT WILL HELP YOU IN YOUR JOB

Following this conversation, you will:

- Understanding how the weather and environment can increase the likelihood of slips in the workplace
- Know what to do in different situations to reduce the risk of slips
- What to do if you spot a hazard and how to keep you & your teams safe

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Weather - Outdoor - Parking areas and grounds can be particularly dangerous, especially during the winter time. An uneven surface like raised pavements, tree roots, or pot holes are common tripping hazards and should be reported immediately. However, combined with darkness, snow, ice, leaves and other obstructions may not always be seen, and that's why you need to be more cautious and try to avoid walking on ice, snow, mud or fallen leaves. Take it slowly and allow yourself extra time to get from A to B, so you don't rush. If you notice that walkways or paths are not clear or that they require salting, report it. **Keep your hands out of your pockets and avoid using your phone when walking** - this increases your balance and can help to break your fall if you do start to slip. It also helps if you can see where you are walking and not looking at your phone.

Weather - Indoor - Traction on the outside can change considerably when weather conditions change. Those conditions can then affect indoor surfaces as moisture, mud or leaves can be tracked in by pedestrian traffic. Water dripping from clothes and umbrellas on rainy days can also cause slips and falls on some floor surfaces. Ensure you are more cautious when entering the building during wet and snowy conditions. **Be mindful of others and clear any spillages and debris immediately.**

Environment - Things such as lighting, humidity, condensation can increase the risk of slips, trips and falls. Too much or too little light can prevent us from seeing hazards on the floor and stairs. Condensation can make a smooth floor slippery. It is very important you are aware of the environment you work in, and that **any faults or issues are reported, or where possible sorted right away.**

PUTTING WHAT YOU'VE LEARNT INTO PRACTICE

Preparing for the inclement weather conditions will help to eliminate slip, trips and falls hazards. So, are we winter ready? Discuss with your team:

- Is there a procedure in place for removing leaves / ice at regular intervals?
- What can we do to reduce the risk of slips, trips and falls caused by environmental factors?
- Who is responsible for clearing the walkways / parking area?

Topic: Weather & Environment



BE MINDFUL

- Keep an eye for what is underfoot, especially during wet and icy conditions
- Wipe your feet well before entering buildings

SPEAK OUT

- Ensure you communicate any hazards found with your manager and colleagues
- If pathways require clearing or salting report this accordingly
- Report any unsafe behaviours to your manager

GET INVOLVED

- Ensure you know your responsibilities when it comes to adverse weather
- Lead by example and deal with any hazards when you spot them

YOU'RE VALIDATION

- What should you **not** do when walking?
- What can affect indoor surfaces?
- In terms of environment what factors can cause hazards?
- Who should report hazards?



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