

CATWALK & FLOOR CLUTTER

Clean walkways are key for a safe and productive workplace. Cluttered walkways cause unsafe conditions and are often a contributing factor or a direct cause for workplace injuries.

Keeping walkways clean is important to ensure your ability to work safely.

Three examples of types of hazards resulting from messy walkways:



- **SLIP, TRIP AND FALL HAZARDS**



- **STRAIN AND SPRAIN HAZARDS**



- **LACERATION HAZARDS**



BC Forest Safety

Safety is good business

Catwalk and Floor Clutter



HAZARDONE

Slip, trip, and fall hazards - one of the most common hazards created by messy walkways are slip, trip and fall hazards. When objects, materials, tools, hoses and equipment are not properly stored, workers are at risk of tripping over them. When water, moisture, oil and/or grease are left on the floor in work areas, slippery conditions occur causing a high risk to workers. Fall hazards are created when employees stand on make-shift surfaces to reach items stored at higher levels. Falls also occur when changes in elevation are not properly marked or barricaded in work areas.



HAZARDTWO

Strain and sprain hazards- sprain and strain injuries can result from slips, trips and falls. They can also occur when heavy items are not properly put away. When heavy or awkward objects are placed on the floor and workers are required to pick them up it creates a risk for injury. Too often, items have to be moved when there is clutter in a work area to get them out of the way. Because of this unnecessary lifting, sprains and strains can occur.



HAZARDTHREE

Laceration hazards - in manufacturing settings, sharp objects are common hazards that create cut risks to workers. Sharp tools, jagged metal and sharp-edged materials can all easily cut through a glove or clothing and injure a worker. When items are not properly stored or cleaned up, this risk for laceration injuries is elevated.

Injuries that occur from poor work area conditions are avoidable and preventable. Take time during your work day to evaluate your work area(s) and assess if there are any walkway issues. Identify these hazards and other potential ones and take action to eliminate them to ensure the risk of injury to you or a co-worker is prevented.

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