

STAIRWAY AND WALKWAY SAFETY

Stair safety is an essential part of both workplace and home safety. Slips, trips and falls are among the leading causes of injuries both at home and in the workplace with stairs often being a common reason behind these incidents.

Many factors - such as poor lighting, cluttered steps or damaged surfaces - can lead to stair-related accidents. Fortunately most of these incidents can be avoided with proper awareness and preventive measures.

KNOW HOW TO BE SAFE:

- **COMMON CAUSES OF STAIR ACCIDENTS**
- **SAFETY TIPS TO ELIMINATE INCIDENTS**



BC Forest Safety

Safety is **good** business

STAIRWAY AND WALKWAY SAFETY



COMMON CAUSES OF STAIR ACCIDENTS:

- **Slippery surfaces:** Caused by spilled liquids, rain, ice or cleaning agents.
- **Poor lighting:** Makes it difficult to see steps clearly, increasing the risk of missteps.
- **Worn or uneven steps:** Can lead to trips and falls due to unstable footing.
- **Lack of handrails:** Reduces balance support, especially in emergencies.
- **Obstructions or clutter:** Items left on stairs create dangerous tripping hazards.

SAFETY TIPS TO PREVENT STAIR-RELATED INCIDENTS:

- **Use stairs properly:** Always use handrails, watch your step and use three-point contact. Avoid running or jumping on stairs.
- **Keep stairs and walkways clear:** Remove debris and slippery substances like ice, snow, water, oil or grease.
- **Maintain good housekeeping:** Keep tools, equipment and materials off stairways and walkways.
- **Stick to designated paths:** Use provided walkways and stairs. Avoid shortcuts like jumping off loading docks or climbing over obstacles.
- **Report or fix damaged handrails:** Don't assume someone else will handle it. Notify your supervisor or make the repair if safe to do so.
- **Be cautious on unstable surfaces:** If you must walk on materials like cross-stacked lumber, ensure stable footing and clear the area when possible.
- **Highlight elevation changes:** Clearly mark any changes in walkway height to alert others to potential hazards.
- **Secure cords and hoses:** Keep them out of walkways. Use approved cord covers and post warning signs until a permanent solution is in place.
- **Walk carefully on slick surfaces:** Take small steps on wet or icy walkways. Wear boot cleats when needed and use handholds for stability.
- **Protect stair treads:** Never throw objects like rocks, logs, or parts onto stairs. Report any damage or unsafe behavior immediately.

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