

Housekeeping for Safety

What we sometimes overlook is that good housekeeping is a key duty on the job. The orderly arrangement of work areas is vital to the safety of all workers, customers and visitors.

It's a fact that approximately 6,000 persons are killed on the job annually in the United States, and an estimated 19,500 in home accidents. Seventeen percent of the on-the-job deaths are caused by falls, many of which result from just plain poor housekeeping practices.

Falls often result from tripping over loose articles such as tools left in aisle ways and work areas. Wet spots on the floor, or trash and other articles left in stairways also take their toll.



It is just a lot easier to do your job when your work area is kept neat. Keep your tools and equipment off the floor and stored in the proper places. This not only reduces tripping hazards, but protects the equipment you use to earn a living with.

The same principles apply when storing materials on the job. Take time to make the piles neat. It's unsafe to stack them too high or uneven. When restacking a pile make sure no one is standing on the other side.

On the job, keep a lookout for danger signals—loose flooring, material out of place, or other unsafe conditions. These things should be corrected immediately, or notify a supervisor to see that they're taken care of.

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