



# Find Your Footing: Ground Conditions

Change in ground conditions in the form of uneven, new, or loose terrain or uneven walking surfaces is a hazard that results in many incidents each year. These hazards are often overlooked because they are a part of daily operations and in turn they are not properly identified, assessed or controlled.

## Hazards

### What Ground Condition Hazards Should You Be Aware of:

#### Wet or Dry Containments

- Weather Conditions (Water, Snow, Ice, Mud)
- Liquid/Chemical Spills (Grease, Oil, Coatings)
- Dry Containments (Dust, metal)

#### Uneven walking surfaces

- Curbs/ Sidewalks
- Milled Edges
- Raised areas (Manholes/potholes, mezzanines, etc)
- String Line ,Tools or cords on Ground
- Concrete Structures
- Entryways

#### Ascending and Descending from high to low/low to high

- Dismantling Equipment
- Entry/exiting heavy equipment
- Ladders
- Settling of new or loose ground
- Excavation

## Controls

### Ways to assess incidents in relation to Ground Conditions:

- Conduct regular workplace inspections
- Complete detailed JSA/JHA (Job Safety Analy-

sis/job Hazard Analysis) for work areas.

### Ways to mitigate or eliminate incidents in relation to Ground Conditions:

- Develop safe work practices and procedures for work scopes where ground conditions are problematic.
- Conduct Toolbox Talks with crew on a daily basis.
- Monitor weather conditions and factor that into work schedules.
- Postpone work until conditions improve if the work environment is unsafe.
- Good Housekeeping Practices (Keeping the workplace as clean, tidy, and rid of tripping hazards such as cords).
- Ensure all areas have good lighting
- Ensure workers are wearing the correct PPE (footwear with good traction) for the work.
- Use signage/identifiers to highlight areas where workers may need to use extra precaution.

## Discussion:

What are some ground condition hazards in your workplace? Have these ground condition hazards been evaluated, and proper controls implemented?

