



**WALK S.A.F.E.**

PREVENT SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS

# WALK **S.A.F.E**

- Prevent slips, trips and falls by taking the **S.A.F.E.** approach
  - **S**urface
  - **A**ttention
  - **F**ootwear
  - **E**nvironment

# SURFACE

- Know the surfaces you walk on and their characteristics to help prevent slips and falls
  - What is it made of?
  - Does it get wet or greasy?
  - Is it flat?
  - Is there more than one flooring type in the workplace?
  - Are there worn or damaged areas?
- When the going gets slippery, go slow and walk like a penguin!

# AWARENESS

- What we do while walking affects our awareness of surface conditions. We might miss changes that have occurred
- Being distracted or poor lighting can increase the possibility of a slip and fall
- Habits we develop can sometimes cause us to lose awareness
  - Do you often walk quickly?
  - Do you use your phone while walking?
- These activities can lead to the loss of awareness and a nasty slip and fall

# FOOTWEAR

- Footwear is the link between you and the surface you walk on
- Not all footwear is compatible with every surface
- Sometimes a shoe that is comfortable and great in the office is not very functional on the shop floor or vice versa
- Take a look at your shoes and the job you must do:
  - Are your shoes compatible with the surface you walk on?
  - Do they provide support and traction on the surfaces you will walk on?
  - Does the condition of your provide the protection that it had when it was new? Check the soles, laces, upper, toe, and heel.

# ENVIRONMENT

- Look around
- What in your environment can cause a slip or trip?
  - Inclement or changing weather conditions can increase the chance of a slip and fall.
  - Special situations such parking lots and work areas with vehicular traffic can place unexpected hazards in our way
- Don't take shortcuts - Walk on clear designated walkways.

# **S.A.F.E. STEPS**

- Report Slips, trips and falls to your Supervisor
  - Complete an employee incident form
  - SMCC is required to keep record of incidents and injuries
- Report potential near misses to your Supervisor, Security or the EH&S Coordinator
  - E.g. damaged carpet or black ice
  - Where issue is located