

# September

## Safety Topic: SLIPS, TRIPS, FALLS

**Introduction:** Most common and frequent accident that happens in a workplace is a slip, trip, and fall accident.

**Background:** In the U.S, slips, trips, and falls account for over 20,000 fatalities each year.

**What must a ASM Global Team Member know:** Training should be provided on what to look for and the proper corrective measures to take when hazards are found.

### Slips

- Slips occur when there is too little friction between a team member's feet and the walking surface.
- Many factors can cause a slip: grease, oil, hydraulic fluid, diesel fuel, and water are most common.
- To prevent slips, avoid walking in areas that pose slipping hazards if at all possible.
- Always promptly clean up spills of slippery substances.
- If an area is a constant problem, re-route foot traffic in order to avoid it.

### Trips

- Trips occur when a team member's foot contacts an object and they are thrown off balance.
- Tripping is obvious--anytime something is in your walkway it could cause you to trip.
- Look for objects that project into the walkways.
- Poor lighting and uneven walking surfaces lead to many tripping accidents.
- Make it a practice to always look and remove objects that could cause a trip.

### Falls

- Falls can be caused by a number of things. Slips and trips frequently result in a fall.
- Improper use of ladders and carelessly climbing in and out of work vehicles can result in a fall that becomes a very serious injury.
- Falls can happen when team members climb objects without using fall protection equipment. Always use fall protection equipment when it is required.
- Periodically conduct safety meetings that discuss slip, trip, and fall hazards.

***For more information see the ASM Global Best Practice 02.02.16 Walking Working Surfaces and 02.02.16.01 Slip Prevention Program.***

