

Did You Know...

Unsafe Conditions

An unsafe condition means the existence of a mechanical, physical, chemical, or environmental situation which may cause a hazard or incident. Unsafe conditions will always exist in the world around us, but it is possible to eliminate or mitigate these conditions in our workplace.

There is an endless list of possible unsafe conditions that can be found on the job; the two that can be found in almost any workplace are slip, trip and fall hazards, and pinch point hazards.

Slip, Trip and Falls – are responsible for many injuries on the job year after year. Many of these incidents are a direct result of an unsafe condition. Objects on the ground are a common example. Other unsafe conditions that can lead to slips, trips and fall injuries include slippery floors, unmarked changes in elevation, cluttered work areas, unprotected edges, open holes, etc.

Pinch Points – are defined as any point where it is possible for a body part to be caught between moving and stationary portions of equipment. Pinch points can come in a variety of shapes and sizes. A couple examples of unsafe conditions relating to pinch points are operation on machinery, unguarded moving equipment and rotating parts.

Addressing Unsafe Conditions

Depending on what the unsafe condition is will determine the action needed to correct it. A basic overview of addressing any hazard in the workplace:

- Stop to take the time to evaluate your work area and work task.
- Recognize unsafe conditions or what could possibly turn into one.
- Act to immediately correct the condition, if possible.
- Stop work and involve other personnel to have the condition corrected if the situation requires you to do so.
- Follow through to ensure any hazards you have identified are properly mitigated.
- Continue to evaluate your work area throughout the workday for possible new hazards.

