



Safety Alert

SLIPS TRIPS AND FALLS

Background

On January 05, 2019 a sub contract worker was accessing a building utilizing a ramp that was also used to move material using equipment.

What Happened?

Worker was walking down a ramp into the basement. Worker lost his footing due to ice and fell. Worker was not carrying anything at the time of incident. Worker was wearing steel toed workbooks with 6" uppers (Ankle protection). Worker had the boots tied appropriately. Worker sustained an injury to his ankle. The ramp was being utilized by equipment and personnel to access the basement throughout the shift. Ramp had compressed snow and sand/gravel on the deck. Ramp was plowed at 8 am prior to start of work. Ramp is cut into the ground and sanded/groomed daily. Light snow had been falling throughout the morning. Field Level Hazard Assessment identified slips/trips. Worker was treated at hospital for broken ankle/chipped bone.

Investigation Findings.

The investigation identified the immediate cause as the walkway not being sanded appropriately to prevent a fall. The Root cause(s) were identified as – Inadequate work planning as previous to the incident all traffic entering the building accessed using the same

ramp making it difficult to keep sanded. The second root cause is engineering and design, the hazard assessment failed to identify the hazards to ground conditions having foot traffic and equipment usage.

Corrective Actions?

Through the investigation it was determined that to prevent further incidents a designated personnel access path be implemented. Site also developed a maintenance program for sanding and grooming walkway. The equipment ramp no longer allows for foot traffic.

How to prevent this on other sites?

Review the site maintenance plan for walk areas. Evaluate during changing weather conditions to determine the need to implement more preventive measures (sand, gravel, removal).

Ensure that access is free from slip hazards.

Designate walking paths.

Ensure all footwear is appropriately fastened. Ensure workers are lacing up the boots and tying them to adequately provide ankle support and rollover protection.

For More Information

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