

THE MOST COMMON SAFETY HAZARDS PART 1



To prevent injuries that occur in the workplace, you first need to know how they happen. Only then can you take preventative measures that both comply with governmental safety regulations and are practical to your given work environment.

Let's take a closer look at the five (5) most common workplace accidents and review the suggested safety tips to help you avoid and prevent them from occurring in your workplace.

The following are the **two (2) most common** safety risks faced by businesses everywhere.

Slips, Trips And Falls

Slip, trips and falls account for 1/3rd of [all personal injuries](#) in the workplace and are a top cause of workers' compensation claims. Types of injuries incurred from slips, trips and falls include head and back injuries, broken bones, cuts and lacerations, sprains and pulled muscles.

Here are the most common reasons for falls in the workplace:

- *Slips* -- Wet or oily surfaces, occasional spills, weather hazards, loose rugs or mats and flooring that lacks the appropriate degree of traction.
- *Trips* -- Obstructed view, poor lighting, clutter, wrinkled carpeting, uncovered cables, uneven walking surfaces and bottom drawers not being closed.

There are three keys to preventing workplace accidents due to slips, trips and falls: (1) good housekeeping, (2) quality walking surfaces and (3) proper footwear. Beyond that, employees should be reminded to take their time and pay attention to where they are going. They should also be encouraged to report areas where clutter, obstruction, spillage or damage have occurred.

Being Caught In Or Struck By Moving Machinery

Machinery that's not properly guarded is a potentially grisly safety hazard. When body parts get caught in or struck by exposed moving parts -- or struck by flying objects from machines without protective guards -- the results are often disastrous. The long and horrifying list of machinery-related injuries includes crushed hands and arms, severed fingers, blindness and worse.

Most mechanical hazards occur in these three places:

- *The Point Of Operation* -- Where work is performed on the material: cutting, shaping, boring or forming of stock.
- *Power Transmission Apparatus* -- Components of the mechanical system transmitting energy to the part of the machine performing the work: flywheels, pulleys, belts, connecting rods, couplings, cams, spindles, chains, cranks and gears.
- *Other Moving Parts* -- All parts of the machine that move while the machine is working: reciprocating, rotating and transverse moving parts, feed mechanisms and auxiliary parts of the machine.

The golden rule in preventing mechanical hazards is to remember that any machine part, function or process that may cause injury must be safeguarded. The hazards must be controlled or eliminated. Other factors include providing thorough operator training and protective clothing.

