Slips, trips and falls

Check the walking route before work starts

A short discussion about same-level walking hazards. This is not a complete fall-protection plan for work at height.

1. Walk the route in your mind

Name the route to the work area, storage and exits. What changed since the last shift? Check for spills, leaks, tracked-in water, ice, debris, loose boards and uneven flooring. Identify stairs and places where loads block the view.

2. Fix the hazard, not just the warning

Arrange safe cleanup or repair. Do not handle an unknown or hazardous spill without the required procedure, training and equipment. Under OSHA 1910.22, correct hazards before the surface is used again. If that cannot happen immediately, guard the hazard to prevent use until it is corrected. Agree on a safe alternative route.

3. Keep the route clear and visible

Plan where materials, waste and equipment go so they do not obstruct passage. Construction housekeeping rules require debris, including scrap lumber with protruding nails, to be kept clear of work areas, passageways and stairs. Report poor lighting; use a safe route.

4. Use stairs without rushing

Use handrails and keep a clear view ahead. If a bulky load blocks the view, get help or change the handling plan. Recheck the route after cleaning, deliveries or changing weather.

Ask the crew

- Where is our most likely slip or trip hazard today?
- Who will arrange the fix, and how will people be kept out until it is safe?
- What safe alternative route will we use? When will we recheck?

Make it specific to this job

Route / hazard: _____

Action / person responsible: _____

Temporary protection / recheck time: _____

Sources and limits

General industry: OSHA 1910.22. Construction housekeeping: OSHA 1926.25. Practical controls: OSHA Hospitals eTool. Standards apply to different settings; check the rules for your operation. Under 1910.22, structural repairs must be performed or supervised by a qualified person. Links are clickable. Reviewed November 3, 2026.

General safety information only. This aid does not replace required training, a site-specific assessment, employer procedures or qualified advice. An attendance signature is not proof of competence.

Separate attendance sheet: toolboxtalk.com/toolbox-talk-template/