

VOLTS News

Valuing Our Lives Through Safety

December 2023—Volume 121

VOLTS Data Report for November

Total Observations: 324

IPSC Emp. Contact Rate: 1.02

Total Safe Behaviors: 2,808

Total At-Risk Behaviors: 23

Top 3 Safe Behaviors

- Required PPE (255)
- Focus on Task (221)
- Eyes on Path (220)

Top 3 At-Risk Exposures

- Required PPE (7)
- Walk/Work Surfaces (5)
- Respiratory (4)

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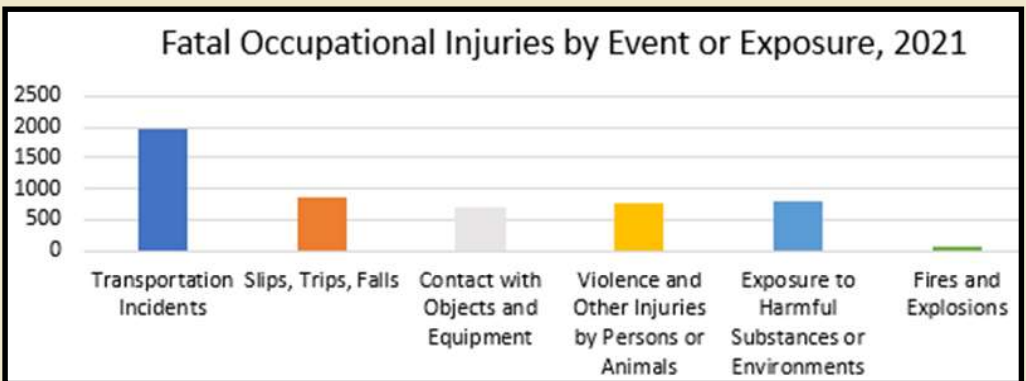


Walk This Way: A Smart Approach to Slip, Trip, and Fall Safety by Casey Draper

As we step into December, the VOLTS Steering Committee is committed to working toward a safer and more secure environment for everyone at IPSC. This month's newsletter focuses on a topic that affects all of us, whether at work or home—slips, trips, and falls. These seemingly minor incidents can have major consequences, impacting both personal well-being and productivity. In this newsletter, we'll explore the causes, effects, and—most importantly—preventive measures to ensure a secure environment for all of us.

Understanding the Impact: The Numbers Speak

Slips, trips, and falls are more than just workplace inconveniences; they are a significant cause of injuries in the United States and globally. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 84 percent of all nonfatal workplace injuries are attributed to slips, trips, and falls. Meanwhile, within the United States, 850 fatal injuries occurred in 2021 making them the second leading cause of fatalities in the workplace after transportation incidents. These incidents not only result in physical harm but also lead to increased absenteeism and reduced productivity—affecting both the individual and the organization.



Identifying the Culprits: Common Causes of Accidents

- **Wet and Slippery Surfaces:** Whether it's a spilled drink in the breakroom or a freshly washed floor, wet surfaces pose a significant risk. To address this, ensure proper signage and use absorbent materials promptly after a spill.
- **Uneven Flooring and Poor Lighting:** Uneven surfaces and inadequate lighting contribute to missteps and accidents. Regular maintenance and well-lit areas can significantly reduce the risk.
- **Cluttered Workspaces:** From loose cables to unattended tools, cluttered areas are a breeding ground for accidents. Adhere to IPSC's housekeeping policy and encourage everyone to keep common areas tidy.

Walk This Way: A Smart Approach to Slip, Trip, and Fall Safety by Casey Draper (cont.)

- **Inadequate Footwear:** Wearing improper footwear can compromise stability. Employees should choose the appropriate footwear for their tasks.
- **Lack of Awareness:** Rushing through tasks without paying attention to surroundings increases the likelihood of accidents. Help promote a culture of mindfulness and situational awareness.



Preventing Slips, Trips, and Falls: A Proactive Approach

Fortunately, most slip, trip, and fall incidents are avoidable. By using the right tactics and training, companies and employees can prevent these incidents from happening.

- **Employee Training and Awareness Efforts:** Regular training sessions can educate employees about the risks and preventive measures related to slips, trips, and falls not only enhancing awareness but also empowering individuals to take responsibility for their safety.
- **Adequate Lighting:** A well-lit environment reduces the chances of accidents. Ensure adequate lighting throughout the workplace. Consider improving the lighting on walkways, stairs, loading ramps, and exits.
- **Spill Cleanup and Proper Signage:** Clean up spills as soon as you see them. Clear and visible signage is crucial in warning individuals about potential hazards. Use signage to highlight wet floors, uneven surfaces, and other potential dangers.
- **Maintaining Clean and Organized Workspaces:** Enforce a housekeeping policy and ensure that common areas are regularly cleaned and organized not only improving safety but also contributing to a more efficient and productive work environment.



- **Proper Footwear:** In certain work environments, requiring employees to wear appropriate footwear (such as non-slip shoes) can significantly reduce the risk of slips and falls.

- **Regular Safety Walkdowns and VOLTS Observations:** Conduct regular safety walkdowns and observations to identify and address potential hazards before they become accidents. This proactive approach can prevent injuries and create a safer work environment.



The Role of Each Employee: A Collective Responsibility

While our organization plays a crucial role in implementing safety measures, every individual within the IPSC community has a part to play in fostering a safe environment. Here are some practical tips for employees:

- **Report Hazards Promptly:** If you notice a spill, uneven surface, or any potential hazard, report it immediately.
- **Wear Appropriate Footwear:** Ensure that you are wearing suitable footwear for your tasks—especially in areas prone to slips and falls.
- **Stay Mindful and Alert:** Pay attention to your surroundings—especially in areas with potential hazards. Being mindful of your environment can prevent accidents.
- **Participate in Training Programs:** Take advantage of the safety training that is offered. Knowledge is a powerful tool in preventing accidents.
- **Encourage a Culture of Safety:** Be proactive in promoting safety within the workplace. Encourage your crew members to adopt safe practices and report any safety concerns promptly.

Promoting a Safer Tomorrow

Slips, trips, and falls are not inevitable accidents. They are preventable incidents that require a collective effort. By raising awareness, implementing preventive measures, and fostering a culture of safety, we can create a workplace that prioritizes hazard elimination. Let's all take proactive steps this winter to navigate the hazards and ensure that we Value Our Lives Through Safety.

References

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2021). <https://www.bls.gov/charts/census-of-fatal-occupational-injuries/fatal-occupational-injuries-by-event-drilldown.htm>.

What's your why?

Do an observation today!

