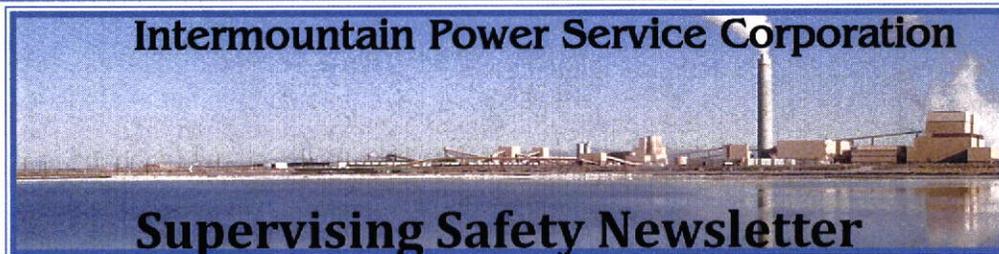


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## Walking-Working Surfaces

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### WALKING-WORKING SURFACES

Slips, trips, and falls constitute the majority of general industry accidents. They cause 15 percent of all accidental deaths and are second only to motor vehicles as a cause of fatalities. For this purpose, OSHA has updated their standard regulations on walking-working surfaces.

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform employees about some of the updates and changes.

- 1910.22(d)(1)(2)(3). Employers must now conduct regular inspections on walking-working surfaces to ensure that they are in a safe condition for employee use. If a hazardous condition is found, it should be reported so the hazard can be repaired as promptly as possible. Staff has provided several tools to help identify potential walking-working surface hazards. Some of these tools are Central Safety walkdowns, VOLTS observations, and incentives that encourage all employees to report unsafe conditions. As employees, it is important to be aware of surroundings and what needs to be done in order to stay safe.
- 1910.22(b). Employers must ensure that each walking-working surface will support the maximum intended load for that surface. It is IPSC'S responsibility to ensure that the load that is going to be placed on the floor does not exceed the floor's capacity. This can be determined by performing a Job Safety Analysis (JSA), preplanning the job, discussing with a supervisor, getting assistance from Engineering, or looking at past work history.
- 1910.28(b). Fall protection flexibility. The new update allows employers to protect workers from falls by choosing from a range of accepted fall protection systems; i.e., guardrail, safety net, travel restraint, designated areas, "low sloped roofs," or personal fall arrest. This new approach will allow employers more flexibility when protecting employees from falls when guardrails would be infeasible to use. Remember your training! If exposed to a fall hazard of four feet or greater, use some type of fall protection.
- 1910.72(a). Scaffold requirements. Employers are now required to comply with OSHA's construction scaffold

standards. IPSC is already following the construction scaffolding standards.

- 1910.28(b)(9). Personal fall arrest systems on fixed ladders. Fixed ladders that extend over 24 feet will need to be equipped with ladder safety or personal fall arrest systems. This prohibits the use of cages and wells as a means of fall protection after the phase-in deadline (20 years). Cages and wells on existing ladders are grandfathered in. New ladders and replacement ladders/ladder sections are required to be equipped with ladder safety or personal fall arrest systems.
- 1910.27(b). Rope descent systems (RDS). Employers are prohibited from using RDS at heights greater than 300 feet above grade unless they demonstrate it is not feasible or creates a greater hazard to use any other system above that height. It also requires that employers obtain information that permanent anchorages used with RDS have been inspected, tested, certified, and maintained as capable to support at least 5,000 pounds for each employee attached.
- 1910.176(g). This requires covers and/or guardrails to be provided to protect personnel from hazards of open pits, tanks, vats, ditches, etc.

IPSC is trying hard to reduce the risks that fall under the walking-working surface regulations. Improvements will continue as potential hazards that are found or encountered are eliminated. By preventing slips, trips, and falls, IPSC can help ensure that its employees return home safely every day after work.

