

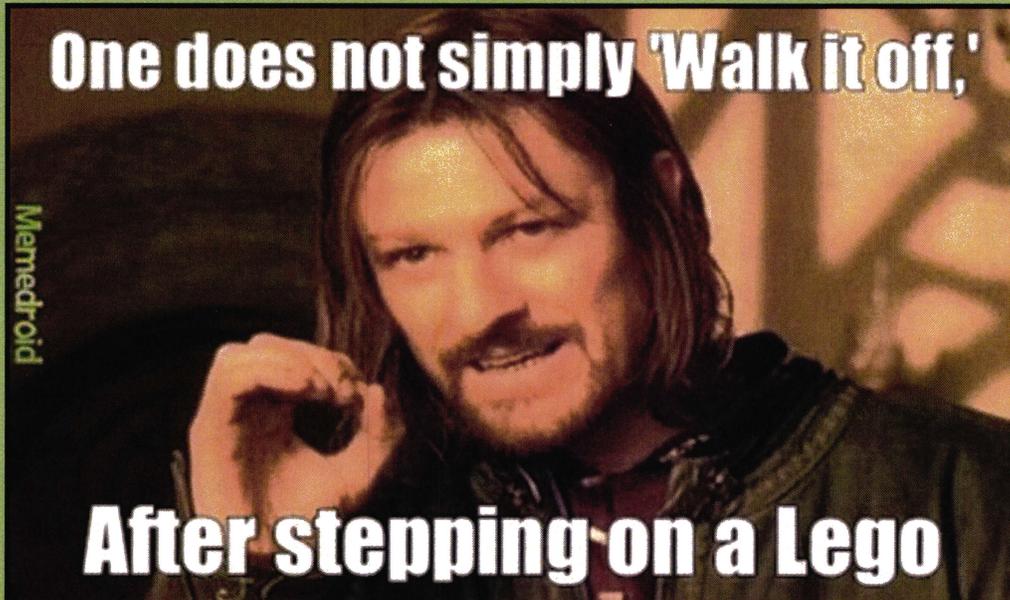
# VOLTS Newsletter

VALUING OUR LIVES THROUGH SAFETY

February 2020, Volume 75

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## 6.1 Walking/Working Surfaces and 6.2 Housekeeping/Storage — by Kirk Stevens

I don't know if there is anything that can bring you out of a sleep coma faster than finding one of your child's long lost Legos . . . with your foot . . . while walking to the bathroom in the middle of the night. The pain is real my friends, as many of you know. You really cannot just walk it off.

Many of the injuries recently reported on site fall under the categories of Walking/Working Surfaces and Housekeeping/Storage. Most of these can be easily avoided with a little adjustment in our behavior. For example, if we see ice, slow down, take a different route, or spread some ice melt. If we have air lines, hydraulic hoses, or power cords laying all over our jobsite, take a few minutes to reroute them out of the way of foot traffic. If your office or cubicle needs to be decluttered, spend a little time each day to make it safer and more organized (it is possible that a *controlled burn* or *chemical treatment* would be the most effective method for some spaces).

Consider the following statement from OSHA:

*Uncluttered working conditions are essential to the safety of all workers and should be maintained at all times in both work and office areas. Proper housekeeping management provides for an orderly arrangement of operations, tools, equipment,*

*storage facilities, supplies, and waste material. Good housekeeping is evidenced by floors free from grease and oil spillage; properly identified passageways; unobstructed accesses and exits; neat and orderly machinery and equipment; well-nested hoses and cords; properly stored materials; removal of excess waste material or debris from the working area; walkways free from ice and snow; surfaces, including elevated locations, free from accumulated dust; and adequate lighting. Maintaining these conditions contributes significantly to lower incident rates.*

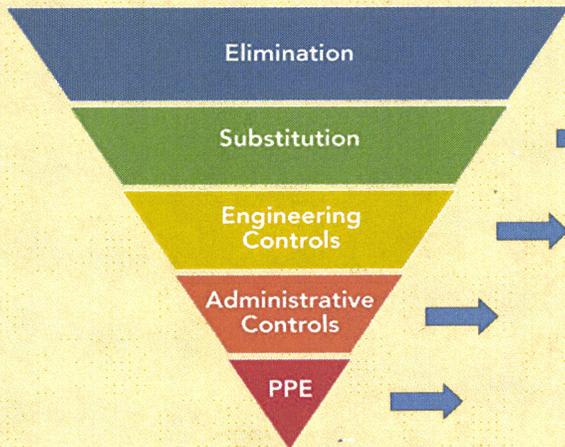
<https://www.osha.gov/dts/maritime/sltc/ships/housekeeping/intro.html>

I get it, messes happen and clutter can accumulate in a hurry when we are focused on the job at hand. How about taking a minute after each break to tidy things up a little and possibly help avoid a trip, slip, or fall. You may also be able to find the tool or report that you have been looking for. Always remember your *why* for wanting to go home safely at the end of the day. Changing our behavior takes some effort, but when it comes to this subject, the outcome of changed behavior is always positive. What is your *why* for changing behavior to eliminate the hazards that cause trips, slips, or falls?

# VOLTS Data Report — Casey Draper

Task Observed: 9/20/19 Trouble Shooting Bad Motor Temperature Switch

## Hierarchy of Controls



## Employee Protected Work Practices

Energy Source Isolated (4.1)

Procedures (4.0)

“Requested a clearance to check a motor”

Communication of Hazards (4.3)

Proper PPE was used

**Positive Observer Feedback:** “Good communication between Operations and the Electricians was performed, which ensured a safe work practice.”

## Exposure is a State of Vulnerability

According to Don Groover, senior V.P. of DEKRA Organizational Safety and Reliability (2018), “Safety does not truly improve unless exposure is identified, then controlled, reduced, or eliminated. Shrink the pool of exposure and incidents go down.”

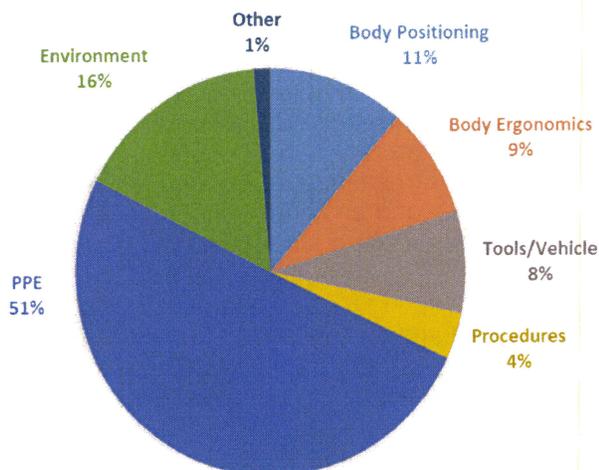
### Reference

Groover, D. (2018). Autopsy of an Injury – Uncovering 18 Million Exposures in one Activity. *DEKRA White Paper*, Retrieved from [https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/64132/DEKRA.us%20Files/eBooks%20and%20White%20Papers/Dekra-WP-autopsy-injury\\_01c.pdf](https://cdn2.hubspot.net/hubfs/64132/DEKRA.us%20Files/eBooks%20and%20White%20Papers/Dekra-WP-autopsy-injury_01c.pdf)

## January Report Summary

VOLTS Contact Rate (Performance Incentive Goal is to Remain Above 1)	1.7
Observations Performed	657
Protected Work Behaviors Observed	7,479
Exposed Work Behaviors Observed	78

**JANUARY 2019 TOTAL PPE PERCENTAGE OF 519 EXPOSED BEHAVIORS FOR SIX MONTHS**



**JANUARY 2020 TOTAL PPE PERCENTAGE OF 427 EXPOSED BEHAVIORS FOR SIX MONTHS**

