

# KSU Facilities Safety Bulletin

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## Slips, Trips, and Falls

Believe it or not, most falls occur on flat surfaces like plant floors. Common causes are slippery areas, improperly stored items, foreign objects, and floor surface issues.

Reporting hazards you see in and around the workplace and following good housekeeping practices are the best defense against a serious fall for you or one of your co-workers. What is the 'good housekeeping' principle? It means that when a worker encounters a spill, or finds debris in a walkway, they first recognize the impact this material might have for colleagues negotiating the path, and then act immediately to clear the hazard. In general, good housekeeping means keeping all places of employment clean, orderly, and sanitary, including storerooms, service rooms, passageways, and bathrooms. Think of picking up trash on the floors at home or children's toys left out on a staircase, and it is easy to understand the idea.

As part of good housekeeping practices, safety professionals should be able to answer "yes" to the following questions:

- Do stairways and stairwells have smooth, continuous handrails and slip-resistant stair surfaces?
- Is lighting adequate in work areas and passageways?
- Is there proper drainage for wet processes and dry places to stand where practical?
- Do exposed walking surfaces have sufficient texture or treatment for safe traction?

## September Vivid Course

**All:**

Slips, Trips, and Falls Overview

**Login with your KSU eid and Password:**

<https://otis.osmanager4.com/KSU>

If workers aren't authorized to take action on safety issues, it's their responsibility to alert a supervisor or employee representative about observed hazards.

Running, horseplay, and practical jokes significantly increase the potential for slips, trips, and falls. Encourage professionalism and discipline those who undermine the safety culture in this regard, if possible.

Cords and hoses pose other potential hazards. Watch for temporarily placed telephone, electrical, and extension cords, and pneumatic or hydraulic hoses lying across floors or suspended near them.

Here are some additional tips for preventing slips:

- Carry only what you can safely handle, especially if the load interferes with your ability to see where you're going.
- Avoid storing boxes or other items on walking surfaces where people might trip over them.
- Don't hurry, especially around corners.
- When ascending or descending stairs, use railings and handrails.
- Take one step at a time when going up or down stairs.
- Report worn, broken, or loose stair treads.

**Source:** [hsi.com](https://www.hsi.com)