Maintaining a Safe Work Environment

According to OSHA statistics, slips, trips and falls (STF) are responsible for the majority of nonfatal occupational injuries nationwide. More than half of these injuries result from falls on level surfaces. Keeping an eye out for potential hazards can help create a safe work environment.

Watch Your Step
Falls are among the most preventable types of accidents. Preventing slips, trips and falls begins by paying attention to where you step. Avoid multitasking while walking. Watch for obstacles indoors such as clutter, debris, cords, wires crossing the floor, and open file cabinet drawers. Other potential hazards include unexpected changes in the floor level, such as a step up, loose tiles, protrusions from the floor, buckled or torn carpeting and wet flooring or oily surfaces. Obstacles to watch out for while outdoors include curbs, potholes, cracks in the pavement, dips in terrain, stones or debris, as well as weather-related hazards such as muddy areas, snow-covered obstacles, standing water or ice.

If a slippery or uneven surface is unavoidable, walk slowly using short shuffling steps. When coming indoors from inclement weather, remember that your boots or shoes are likely to be slipperier and floors (continued)
• PATIENCE Take the time to do things correctly every time—like always buckling your seatbelt, even on quick trips. There are no shortcuts to safety.

• RESPONSIBILITY Accept responsibility for maintaining a safe work environment that benefits everyone. Immediately notify maintenance or management of any observed unsafe conditions or safety concerns, so that they can be addressed, and other employees can be alerted and advised of precautions that should be taken to avoid injury.

• THINK Stop and think twice before acting. Accidents are not always the result of bad luck. They occur when someone decides—consciously or not—to take a chance. Be smart and avoid taking unnecessary risks and always “Think Safety First.”

Integrity / Vigilance Helpfulness

Everyone is affected when a person has an accident or is injured on the job. The pain and suffering, work disruptions, lost time injuries, and costs from such incidents can also impact families, co-workers and the company, as well as the injured party.

This is why it is important to maintain a culture of safety. Always adhering to safe work habits, and never avoiding or ignoring established safety procedures, is part of everyone’s job. The key to staying safe at work is remembering that safety is no accident. “Think Safety First” before starting any task, no matter how familiar it is. If you see someone acting in an unsafe manner, stop and help them consider the potential consequences of their actions. Assist them by explaining a safer way of performing the task.

For more information on this and other security related topics, visit the Securitas Safety Awareness Knowledge Center at http://www.securitasinc.com/en/knowledge-center/security-and-safety-awareness-tips