

Off-The-Job Safety Topic

Slips, Trips, and Falls

- Many people do not consider falls a serious threat to their personal safety.
- Not many WSRC employees know that falls account for the highest number of on-the-job fatalities at SRS (based on assigned categories which include falls, vehicle-related, burns, etc.).
- Of the 16 site fatalities since construction in 1951, 7 of these fatalities were a result of an employee falling or slipping.
- This review of on-the-job fatalities as a result of falls is intended to make us all think about the serious consequences of falls on or off the job.

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- 11/29/51 - A structural iron worker fell and died from a head injury.
- 12/14/51 - A carpenter fell when he removed a hole cover and stepped in the hole. He died from a neck injury.
- 10/15/53 - A structural iron worker fell from a overhead steel structure and died from a head injury.
- 01/22/62 - A carpenter died from a chest injury. The employee was tied off to a large form when the form fell and the employee was pinned between the form and a nearby wall.

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- 03/11/67 - A T&T conductor lost his balance and fell under the train as he was dismounting a railroad car.
- 02/12/73 - A mechanic slipped on ice and fell while exiting 717-A. He later died from a head injury.
- 04/03/95 - WSI officer was fatally injured from a fall. The employee was repelling from a 40-ft tower when the rope broke, causing him to fall ~30 ft to the ground.

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- A few other facts that should make us consider the seriousness of slips, trips, and falls are listed below.
 - On average, about 150,000 people make emergency room visits due to ladder mishaps each year in the United States alone.
 - Slips, trips, and falls are second only to motor-vehicle accidents as a leading cause of death.
 - Slips, trips, and falls account for nearly 25% of all disabling injuries in the Florida agriculture business.
 - More than a million people suffer from a slip, trip, or falling injury each year; over 11,000 die as a result of falls alone.

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- A few ways to prevent slips, trips, and falls
 - Don't be in a hurry
 - Pay attention to where you are stepping
 - Clean up spills
 - Use nonskid shoes and surfaces
 - Maintain proper lighting
 - Keep stairs (and floors) clear of obstacles
 - Inspect ladders before use; have someone stabilize the ladder when mounting and dismounting
 - Use safety belts and harnesses (even at home)
 - Hire a professional