

HOUSEKEEPING PREVENTS INJURIES

This topic was created to aid you with your regular scheduled safety meetings. This topic was designed to be presented in 5 to 10 minutes with a minimum of preparation. Remember to fill in the documentation section on the reverse side.

Accidents and injuries occur everyday. Some of them are more easily prevented than others, but to be accident-free we should start with the basics.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING!

Many injuries are the result of poor housekeeping practices. How many times have you been guilty of saying to yourself, "I'll finish what I am doing and then clean up the mess."? And you either neglect to clean it up or you experience an accident before you do so. How often have you seen an example of poor housekeeping? Probably today! It's that "poor housekeeping" that can lead to workers getting hurt on the job. Cardboard boxes left in the work area are perfect obstacles for people to trip over or step on and sprain an ankle. Wood scraps, sawdust and other combustibles can lead to trip and falls or fires. Whatever the mess, it should be cleaned up. No one should be asked to work in an environment where they have to step on or over debris just to do their job.

Each person has a responsibility to keep work areas clean. Take the time necessary to do so. Avoid making excuses or putting it off. Someone, even yourself, can get hurt while you wait.

Cal/OSHA places high emphasis on housekeeping. Every year housekeeping citations are near the top of the list of the most common rules cited. There is no good reason for not maintaining a clean work environment. Clean up as you go along and avoid starting new tasks until you've cleaned up the old one.

SAFETY REMINDER:

There is no reason to accumulate trash; clean it up and throw it away.