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Three Types of Poor Housekeeping Hazards

Housekeeping is a basic foundation for not only a safe workplace but also a productive one. When workplace housekeeping is poor, employees are more likely to be hurt on the job. The unsafe conditions present due to poor housekeeping practices is often a contributing factor or a direct cause of workplace injuries.

It is important to realize the impact that good housekeeping has on your ability to work safely.

Three Types of Workplace Hazards Resulting from Poor Housekeeping:

1. Slip, trip, and fall hazards:

One of the most common types of hazards created by poor housekeeping are slips, trips, and falls. When objects, materials, tools, and equipment are not safely stored, workers are bound to trip over them. Slippery conditions are created when water, moisture, oils, grease, etc., are left on the floor in work areas. Fall hazards are created when employees have to stand on makeshift surfaces to reach items stored at higher levels. Falls also occur when elevation changes are not properly marked or barricaded in work areas.

2. Strain and sprain hazards:

Sprain and strain injuries can result from slip, trip, and fall incidents. They can also occur when heavy items are not properly put away. When heavy or awkward objects are placed on the floor and need to be picked up by a worker, it creates a risk for injury. Too often, items have to be moved when there is improper housekeeping in a work area just for the sake of getting them out of the way. Because of unnecessary lifting, sprains and strains can occur.

3. Laceration hazards:

Whether you are working in a construction or manufacturing setting, there are plenty of sharp objects that can cut your hand or body. When items are not safely stored, this creates a huge risk of laceration injuries. Sharp tools, jagged metal, sharp-edged materials, etc., can all easily cut through a glove or clothing and injure a worker.

Summary:

The injuries that result from poor work area conditions simply do not have to occur.

These types of injuries are 100% preventable.

Take time to evaluate your work areas and housekeeping program today.

Look for these three common hazard types.

Take action to eliminate them, so they do not have the chance to injure you or a coworker.