

## PREVENTING FALLS

According to the National Safety Council's 2018 Accident Facts, the top two leading causes of work-related injuries are **overexertion** (such as lifting, pushing, turning, holding, carrying, or throwing) and **slips, trips and falls**, making up **58%** of all occupational injuries involving days away from work in the US.

### Where can FALLS occur?

Slips, trips, and falls are of major concern for SU/SD's. They make up the majority of workers' compensation claims in schools. With safety in mind, they may be eliminated from the injury list. Falls may occur from:

1. **Slips and trips from housekeeping concerns**
2. **Ladders**
3. **Elevated surfaces, runways, and scaffolding**

### How can we prevent these types of slips, trips, and falls?

#### 1. **Slips and trips from housekeeping concerns**

- Maintain a good standard of housekeeping.
- Promptly clean up liquid spills.
- Wet locations should be controlled.
- Ensure that staff and students wear appropriate footwear for the job.
- Doorways, aisles, stairways, and other walking or working surfaces shall be kept clear of trash, debris, tools, equipment, and other items, which may cause tripping or other accident hazards. All passageways, storerooms, service rooms, aisles, and working spaces should remain free from clutter.
- Protruding nails, splinters, holes or loose boards should be removed.
- Trash, debris, or other refuse will not be thrown or dropped from upper levels unless the area below is properly barricaded and adequate warnings are posted.
- Adequate number and size of refuse containers should be provided in the workspace.
- Rags, shop cloths, disposable towels, etc., contaminated with flammable or combustible liquids, or harmful chemicals should be stored in labeled metal containers equipped with a cover and discarded in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.

*Reference: OSHA Standard for General Requirements Subpart D Walking and Working Surfaces 1920.22*

