

## Things to Do Before Training

- Be prepared to talk about whether you and your crew have been keeping the job site clean, dry, and free of obstruction.
- Know where garbage containers, bins, and dumpsters are located on the job site.
- In the index of the *Cal/OSHA Pocket Guide for the Construction Industry*, look up **Housekeeping** and read the pages listed.

## Introduction

Slips and trips cause a surprisingly large number of injuries on construction work sites. The single most important factor is whether the site is kept clean, dry, and free of obstruction.

One out of four injuries in construction is related to poor housekeeping.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK

- Have you or someone you know had an injury that occurred because of poor housekeeping? What could have been done to prevent it?
- What are the hazards that could cause slips and trips on this and other jobs? What can we do to correct them?
- Are there enough garbage containers, bins, and dumpsters on this job site?

SAFETY  BREAK

## ACTIONS TO TAKE

- Discuss how to improve the practice of cleaning up as you go. Talk about how problems develop, their root causes, and potential solutions.
- Make sure enough containers and tools are available in convenient locations and that workers know where they are located.

## Key Points to Keep in Mind

### **Hazards include:**

- Trash on the site, such as scrap lumber, broken bricks, drywall, packaging, and food wrappings; wet or slippery areas.
- Cords strewn haphazardly.
- Inadequate lighting.
- Stairs without handrails.
- Fire hazards.

### **Construction debris:**

- Is often irregular in shape, hard to handle, and full of sharp objects.
- Creates slipping and tripping dangers.
- Makes it difficult to see other hazards, such as faulty wiring, protruding nails, damaged flooring, or missing scaffold planks.
- Invites more mess.
- Creates an environment where tools and material can be misplaced and production and installation time can increase.

### **Housekeeping on the job means:**

- Cleaning up scrap and debris at least daily**, putting it in containers, and making sure that the containers are emptied regularly.
- Proper storage of materials and equipment.**
- Keeping stairways, ramps, and other travel areas clear.**
- Securing loose or light material stored on roofs and open floors to keep it from blowing away.
- Using an enclosed chute or containers to lower material instead of letting it fall.
- Cleaning up spills and grease spots** before they create slipping hazards.
- Identifying these hazards before and during cleanup** using cones or signs that warn of the danger.
- Being aware of fire prevention by immediately **removing flammable rubbish and debris** from the vicinity of welding, flame cutting, propane heating, and other ignition sources.