

Slips, Trips and Falls

Background Notes

A large number of DHS employees are injured every year from preventable falls in the office, coming and going to vehicles, and while performing home visits and other tasks outside of the office. Falls result from tripping on boxes and other objects left in the route of travel or because employees do not keep to paved pathways but cut across landscaped areas or otherwise rough terrain. Failure to use the handrail, carrying objects while using stairs or footwear may be contributing causes as well. Heels and open toe footwear are not good choices for doing home visits and may be prohibited by management. Some medications and general physical conditions may also play a role. Employees need to be aware of any personal limitations or risks and take appropriate precautions.

Tasks / Assignments:

- Review "What Can I do to Prevent Slips, Trips and Falls" from the appendix.

Discoveries:

- *What hazards have you noticed in your office?*
- *What hazards might you encounter in the field?*
- *Who should you report hazards to?*