

SLIPS, TRIPS & FALLS

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Reported Circumstances

What was the individual doing?

- Walking straight, turning, running, ascending/descending stairs or a ramp;
- Path of travel;
- Using handrail, carrying items.

Were they familiar with the area?

Did they anticipate a potential hazard?

- Observations of others using the area, moisture or ice, signage/warnings.

How do they describe falling?

- Fall direction;
- Impact with ground.

Environment

Is the level of lighting appropriate?

Does the lighting level vary (i.e., with daylight)?

Time of fall (hour, season, etc.)

Were there any distractions?

What were the weather conditions?

Was any necessary signage, warning or demarcation present?

Pedestrian

What is the individual's medical history?

- Conditions affecting strength, balance, vision;
- Medications affecting balance;
- Pre-existing injuries.

Does the individual have a history of falls?

What is the individual's age?

What types of injuries were sustained?

- Bias of front versus back of body;
- Bruising and abrasions, sprains, fracture, concussion.

Maintenance

Was there a cleaning and maintenance program in place?

- Schedule;
- Products used;
- Records.

Were any surface treatments applied?

- Etching, anti-slip coating, grit additive, non-slip tape.

Product specifications

Footwear

What type of footwear were they wearing?

- Sole material;
- Tread pattern;
- Heel height;
- Attachment to foot.

What was the condition of their footwear?

- Wear on sole;
- Broken straps/buckles;
- History of loss of balance while wearing that footwear.

Walking Surface

What is the design of the incident area?

- Dimensions, slope;
- Changes in height;
- Drainage;
- Surface material.

When was the area built or the walking surface installed?

- Applicable codes and standards;
- Age/wear/maintenance.

What is the slip resistance of the walking surface?

Where to Find Information

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| ✓ Discovery transcripts | ✓ Preserved footwear or photographs (including sole) |
| ✓ Witness statements | ✓ Emergency medical records |
| ✓ Incident reports | ✓ Medical imaging reports |
| ✓ Scene photographs and measurements | ✓ Maintenance records |
| ✓ Security video | ✓ Product specifications |