

Risk Focus: Slips, trips and falls

What is so special about slips, trips and falls? They are 'accidents' aren't they, part and parcel of life; maybe something which have to be expected aboard ships, which are mobile, sometimes even violently moving, places of work?

Your chance to reduce accidents

A proactive and precautionary approach can be very useful in reducing the incidents of slips, trips and falls, in first of all identifying hazards which have the potential to hurt people. Very often accidents occur because nobody has considered that what they are doing might be hazardous. Just walking around the ship with a sharp eye and an open mind can help to identify features which might, in an unguarded moment, hurt people.



Inadequate lighting is the cause of many accidents. Will the eye pick out obstructions on a dark deck?

Not always 'the usual causes'

It is very often not the obvious, like working at height, or with machinery, that will cause the accidents, because an experienced seafarer will probably be taking the proper precautions, and will be adequately clad with procedural controls in place. Rather, just moving around the ship, going up and down companionways and ladders, carrying weights or neglecting to keep 'one hand for the ship and one for yourself' are not infrequently behind very nasty accidents.

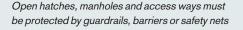


All too often unmarked obstructions will be found in direct line where somebody needs to walk



Non-slip paint can make a huge difference. Stirring sand into deck coatings works wonders





SLIP

PAINT

NON



The 'obvious' is often not a cause of accidents. Crew working at height usually take proper precautions



Steps should be clearly marked by painting top and bottom treads in bright colours

Are crewmembers wearing the correct personal protective clothing and footwear?





Rubbish and equipment left around are trip hazards and can cause serious injury or worse

Can you spot the hazards?

Note the hazards you spot here, or use a separate sheet(or to provide more space to write you could fix a ruled post-it pad here)Type of hazardLocation

How you can help

What fall hazards can be identified by somebody walking around a ship really looking for trouble? Are guard rails available and in place? Once again, is lighting adequate around ladders and gangways? Are gangway nets properly deployed? Are properly approved harnesses available (and always used) by people working at height, or down hatches, or close to the ship's side when railings are removed? More to the point, are people who might be endangered doing hazardous tasks, properly briefed in a 'toolbox talk', before they get on with the job? Are they wearing the correct personal protective clothing? Are ship's procedures for personal safety properly thought through and always adhered to?

On the right you can mark down the hazards and slip, trip and fall problems you find on your vessel or use a separate sheet