



The Bonner County Safety Record

All the News that is Safe to Print

December 15, 2016
Edition 21

Don't Slip, Trip, or Fall

Now that winter is here, we are aware of slip, trip and fall hazardous outside while walking. We should also be aware of trip hazards we create indoors. The focus of this newsletter is to raise awareness of trip hazards in the shop or in the office and how we can control them.

Shop: Trip hazards are created by compressed air hoses, extension cords, water hoses, and corded lights. The best way to control this hazard is to engineer it out, by replacing loose cords and hoses with those mounted on retractable reels, that can be easily put away after use. To minimize the hazard further, install these reels close to the workspace where they will be used, or ceiling mounted.

Office: Trip hazards are created by computer cords, phone chargers, phone lines, and space heater cords. The best way to control this hazard is to engineer it out, by securing all cords out of the way, away from walking surfaces or where we sit. Care must also be taken to avoid plugging high energy use items such as space heaters and toasters into power strips, which can become overloaded and catch fire.

Desktop power strips can be installed if visitors need power or phone lines for their laptops in meeting rooms and guest office spaces, so that they don't need to plug their devices into wall or floor outlets.

Hallways, other areas: Trip hazards are frequently created when vacuuming or setting up temporary lights. Route these cords away from the center of the walkway by putting them against walls or up by the ceiling. Use cordless equipment if possible. Secure or tape the cords down, or use warning signs, if you are unable to physically reduce the hazard.

Useful links:

Travelers info:

<https://www.travelers.com/resources/workplace-safety/preventing-slips-trips-and-falls-in-the-workplace.aspx>

NSC info:

http://www.nsc.org/NSCDocuments_Advocacy/Fact%20Sheets/Slips-Trips-and-Falls.pdf





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Control the cords, continued....

Which of these are safer?

