

## **International Carwash Association Safety Tips Sheet: Slips, Trips and Fall Injuries**

Slips and trips are common in our industry, but preventable:

- Car wash employees work around surfaces which can be coated with detergent, soap, wax and oil and are at risk of slip, trip and fall injuries.
- Often, these injuries occur at job sites, but they can also occur indoors, especially when “good housekeeping” is not a high priority.
- Slips, trips and falls may result in broken bones, sprains, concussions, or other costly and painful injuries. These injuries, however, are preventable.

What causes slip, trip and fall injuries:

- Running on the job is a cause of slip, trip and fall injuries.
- Injuries can also occur by not being on the constant lookout for hazards.
- Poor lighting conditions, icy spots in winter, spills and electrical cords or hoses left in walkways are among the many other contributors to slip, trip and fall injuries.
- Improper footwear can lead to less traction and injury.

How to prevent slip, trip and fall injuries:

- Pay close attention to conditions and remember that wet cement can be very slick.
- Wear proper waterproof shoes or boots that have good traction.
- Do not run.
- Put tools, equipment and materials back where they belong.
- Practice good housekeeping. If you spill something, clean it up. And if you spot a potential slipping or tripping hazard, eliminate it if possible or bring it to your crew leader’s attention.
- Remove ice and snow before it accumulates.
- Clean surfaces coated in detergent, soap or wax before buildup.
- Clean up all oil spills in an approved manner.
- Clean up trash and debris and put in proper barrels.
- Do not leave tools around where people can trip over them.