




Slips, Trips, and Falls

Your guide to avoiding slips, trips, and falls at transfer stations on Tribal lands.

What are slips, trips, and falls?

Slips, trips, and falls are common causes of injury for solid waste workers as well as customers. These accidents are mostly avoidable and can result in operation slowdowns, temporary facility closures, and temporary staff shortages.

Slips and trips often occur on wet or uneven surfaces or involve a fall from one working surface level to another. Not paying attention, distraction, or rushing can also be contributing factors.

		
Slips result from lack of traction.	Falls can happen due to a slip or trip at the same level or to a lower surface such as when the transfer station has a pit.	Trips can result from objects in the worker's path.

Safety Measures to Implement

Procedural Measures

- ✓ Wear sturdy work shoes with good tread.
- ✓ Be extra cautious on smooth or slippery surfaces or when bearing loads, and practice safe walking skills, such as shorter steps.
- ✓ Recognize and resolve slip, trip, and fall hazards. Watch for wet weather conditions or spillage, such as mud, water, ice, snow, oils, or other liquids. Solid debris, such as leaves, can also pose a slip hazard.
- ✓ Practice good housekeeping.
 - Keep passageways and aisles clear of clutter or debris.
 - Clean spills as soon as practicable.
 - Use portable signage to mark areas that are not immediately cleaned or dry.
- ✓ Follow safe ladder practices to avoid falls, such as facing forward, maintaining three points of contact, and only using ladders on even and clean surfaces.
- ✓ Understand required incident reporting and notification protocols.

Preventative Measures and Facility Design

- ✓ Install signage for areas where slip, trip, and fall hazards cannot be removed.
- ✓ Apply slip-resistant surfaces to concrete. Re-use leftover paint and add manufactured slip-resistant material (or ordinary sand) into the paint to help with slick surfaces.
- ✓ Sufficiently light areas to help illuminate hazards and avoid low light conditions. If a facility is not wired for lighting, consider reducing scheduled facility hours in winter when there are fewer hours of daylight.
- ✓ Install safety barriers, such as chains, ropes, rails, tires, or other barricades, to prevent access to areas where falls are likely.
- ✓ Install rails or barricades to minimize the risk of falling into debris boxes. Openings in the barricade allow offloading larger items without having to lift them over the rail.
- ✓ Place boxes so that the top of the box is about three feet above the surface to reduce the potential for falling or driving into the container but still allow users to unload materials. NOTE: Larger items, like furniture, will be difficult to lift into the container; if possible, use a separate container or area for bulkier or heavy items.
- ✓ Install flaps between the tipping area and the containers that are below grade to prevent people and waste from falling between the container and the wall. These flaps can be permanent or hinged to move up when the box is removed.



Safety barriers can deter an accidental fall to the lower grade.



Box placement above the surface reduces the risk of falling.



Flaps prevent things falling into the space between container and wall.