

Take control

17.10.01

Falls, trips and slips of a person

Falls from a height or into a depth >

This information bulletin has been produced to help prevent workplace injury and disease. By identifying causes and assessing and controlling risks, you can take control of health and safety in your workplace.

Areas in the workplace which could indicate there is a risk of such occurrences happening

Some things to look for include:

- Lack of steps, or steps too far apart (for example, on ladders);
- Fragile, unstable, loose, uneven or worn floor surfaces;
- Broken or unstable ladders, platforms and scaffolding;
- People not having or not wearing non-slip boots or shoes;
- Handling unstable loads or having to reach too far at a height;
- Lack of handrails, or rails too far apart on stairs;
- Slippery, wet or oily floor surfaces;
- Unguarded floor and roof openings;
- Open pits, tanks, silos and lift wells;
- Objects in the path of people; and
- Poorly secured ladders.

Examples of what can be done to stop such occurrences from happening

Employers should, for example, make sure that:

- Handrails are installed on stairways and ramps;
- Good lighting is maintained throughout work areas;
- Steps are provided so that employees don't have to jump to get down from working at a height;
- Work areas, particularly raised areas or areas around floor and roof openings, are kept free of obstacles;
- All equipment used, such as ladders and platforms, are designed for the job to be done;
- Secure railings, fences and barriers are installed and maintained around entrance holes;
- Non-slip walkway, ladder and stair surfaces are installed;

putting safety first >



- Walkways and crawl-boards are used on fragile surfaces;
- Spills on floors are immediately cleaned up and action taken to prevent further spillage;
- A range of non-slip protective footwear is available to employees;
- Certified scaffolders and riggers are employed as required; and
- Well designed safety belts and harnesses are available and used.

To find out more

The [Workplace Health and Safety Act](#) and the [Workplace Health and Safety Regulations](#) outline the minimum standards and the process to manage occupational health and safety in your workplace.

[Australian Standards](#) are available from the Territory Construction Association, phone 8922 9666. Australian Standards can be viewed online by visiting the Northern Territory Library, Parliament House, phone 8999 7177.

Australian Standards applicable to this topic include:

- [AS 1576](#) Workplace Scaffolding
- [AS 1725](#) Galvanised rail-less chainwire security fences and gates
- [AS 1891](#) Industrial fall-arrest systems and devices
- [AS 1892](#) Portable ladders

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