

TEST ANSWERS: SLIPS, TRIPS & FALLS / HOUSEKEEPING

The *BSO Plus Safety Topic* is a review designed from the BSO Plus agenda. This safety topic is your way to stay current on the safety information over the 3 years between BSO Plus and BSR.

1. Slips, trips, and falls are caused **ONLY** by physical conditions such as poor housekeeping, wet or slippery surfaces, poor lighting, environmental factors, or a change in surface elevation or texture.
- a. True
 - b. False

RATIONALE: The first step in preventing falls is to be aware of your surroundings and identify all the potential slip, trip and fall hazards for every job you do. While paying close attention to the physical hazards that surround you is important, personal factors such as inappropriate footwear, not being aware of your surroundings, rushing, taking short cuts, and texting while walking can also lead to slips, trips, and falls. According to the WSIB, falls at the same level are the 3rd leading cause of lost-time injuries in Ontario.

2. Which of the following actions will help minimize slips, trips, and falls? (Circle all that apply)
- a. Pay attention to your footing
 - b. Wear appropriate footwear
 - c. Only clean up at the end of a task
 - d. (a) & (b) only

RATIONALE: Both slips and trips result from some a kind of unintended or unexpected change in the contact between the feet and the ground or walking surface. This fact shows that good housekeeping, quality of walking surfaces (flooring), selection of proper footwear, and appropriate pace of walking are critical for preventing fall incidents.

3. If you can't fix a slip, trip, or fall hazard on your own, you must report the hazard to your supervisor.
- a. True
 - b. False

RATIONALE: Under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, s.28.1(c) (d), any worker who is aware of a hazard has a responsibility to report it to his or her supervisor. Your supervisor can help keep the workplace safe by fixing any hazards and providing the proper equipment around the jobsite to make it easy for workers to keep the site clean and organized.

4. Which of the following actions will help minimize housekeeping hazards?

- a. Clean up after yourself throughout the day
- b. Store tools and materials in a clean and organized manner
- c. Only clean up at the end of a task
- d. (a) & (b) only

RATIONALE: Housekeeping is an ongoing task that needs to be done continuously throughout the day, not just at the day's end. Poor housekeeping frequently contributes to accidents by hiding hazards that cause injuries. Cleaning and organizing must be done regularly to prevent workplace hazards. Everyone is responsible for maintaining a clean work space.

5. Employers can be fined for failing to ensure that a work surface is kept free of slip and fall hazards.

- a. True
- b. False

RATIONALE: Certain regulations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act describe the proper maintenance of floor conditions and aisle ways, lighting, machinery, equipment, and materials storage. Since maintaining a clean and safe workspace is a legal obligation under the Act, all workplace parties are subject to Ministry of Labour fines if they fail to ensure housekeeping practices are properly followed.