

Slip, Trip, & Fall | Q & A | Answer Sheet



1	Q	Slips, trips & falls are not an issue in agricultural work?	
	A	FALSE	False, slips, trips and falls are among the leading cause of time loss and injury incidents in agriculture every year.
2	Q	This is “good news” because this is something that we can do something about?	
	A	TRUE	Many times, slips trips and falls occur because of poor work practices, not cleaning up an area or making a repair, or creating a hazard as we perform a task. These are often inexpensive, and many times do not take long to correct.
3	Q	Farmers and ranchers don’t need to worry about fixing slipping, tripping or falling hazards because they are just part of rural life. Workers should just learn to live with the things that cause slips, trips, or falls and “be more careful”?	
	A	FALSE	Many of the hazards can be eliminated by simply putting things away or with more effort and attention applied to keeping work areas clean and clear of debris. Paying attention to floor and surface conditions and wearing appropriate footwear for the task help. Many of the hazards that cause slips trips and falls can be eliminated. If you are not sure how to do this consult your regional agricultural safety association.
4	Q	Distraction can cause a slip, trip, or fall to occur?	
	A	TRUE	Stay focused on the task at hand. Being distracted can cause you to fail to observe a change in conditions or forget about a tripping or slipping hazard that is present in your workspace but cannot be eliminated. Stay alert, stay focused.
5	Q	Many times, we create a tripping hazard in our workspace or in the way that we are doing our job?	
	A	TRUE	Putting tools down, rather than away. Dropping items where we may step on them or trip over them is often the cause of incidents and accidents. Cluttered shop floors, often with parts, shop towels, cords or tools are a significant contributor to slips, trips and falls. Think about where you are putting things, they need to be placed out of the way of your work and where you or others will walk.
6	Q	Changing floor or surface conditions are expected in ranch and farm work and people should expect this and pick their feet up?	
	A	FALSE	As a supervisor or employer, and as a worker, you have a responsibility to ensure a safe workplace. In applying the test of due diligence to your workplace, items that could cause a slip, trip or a fall need to be addressed. They must be put in a place out of harms way. If there are items that will be used in the course of a work task the worker needs to know how to safely place or store that item or article. They need to be aware of how to work safely in and or around the item, object, or hazard. It is always best to have items placed away and always where they cannot cause a slip, trip, or fall.
7	Q	Uneven surfaces, ground and floor conditions should be part of your inspection process?	
	A	TRUE	Surfaces can cause a slip, trip, or fall. Identifying the items or area of concern in an inspection is the best, and often regulated practice. Marking, and identifying hazards, instructing, and communicating the risk to workers and then planning and correcting the situation, eliminating the hazard, are all part of a good inspection process. This must be documented.

Slip, Trip, & Fall | Q & A | Answer Sheet



8	Q	How you mount or dismount mobile equipment, tractors, in particular, is a matter of personal preference?	
	A	FALSE	Best practice is always to treat the tractor step like a ladder. Face the tractor, or other mobile equipment piece when you get on or off. Face in when you get on, face in when you get off. This may require training, or at least the development of a new habit. Supervision and reminding yourself as you modify your habit as you learn to do this will help. Take it slow and use every step. Always maintain 3 points of contact when mounting or dismounting.
9	Q	Clearing ice and snow build up on tractor steps or other mobile equipment access points is the responsibility of the mechanic, maintenance person or the owner/employer?	
	A	FALSE	This is an operator responsibility and should be part of your pre-shift mobile equipment inspection. Debris, ice, snow, or broken steps or access points must be remedied as soon as practicable. Ice, snow, dirt, and debris must be cleaned off and the step cleared to enable safe use of the step. If the step or access point is damaged, then it must be repaired to enable safe use. If you have a supervisor, report the matter to them. You may need to put the equipment out of service until repaired.
10	Q	In the summertime there is no need to worry about how I get on or off a tractor step?	
	A	FALSE	Many slips, trips and falls occur in the summer. Loose gravel, sand on hard surfaces, rutted or uneven terrain can easily cause you to slip, trip or fall. Ensure your footing is solid. Whenever possible park in a place that affords clear, clean mounting and dismounting of the tractor. When exiting onto loose gravel or sand, rutted or uneven ground be cautious in the placement of your feet, do not “jump” off the unit, and maintain a 3-point contact. Use the “face on, face off” method.
11	Q	I should consider the task I will be performing today whenever possible and think about what the floor or ground conditions might be like today at work?	
	A	TRUE	Agricultural workers often perform a variety of jobs, tasks, and activities. These can change from day to day or even change several times within the same workday. Workers must know that the footing conditions can change depending upon the task and should consider the weather, floor type, regulatory requirements, ground conditions and weather conditions when selecting footwear.
12	Q	Every tripping hazard can be easily eliminated?	
	A	FALSE	Some conditions and work situations will never allow for the complete elimination of tripping or slipping hazards. Some things, like checking calves in a winter storm, stepping over crisscrossed deadfalls in the bush moving livestock, stepping over or around the rails for picking carts or sliding platforms in nurseries, or walking across wet floors in a dairy are simply a reality of the work done on farms and ranches in Canada. When the hazard cannot be eliminated it must be recognized (known) and managed (controlled). The hazard needs to be made known to workers and this instruction must be documented. Working in such environments will require a risk assessment and safe work practice be established for working in and around the unfixable situation or item. When and where possible always eliminate the hazard, but this may not always be possible. When it is not, workers must always be alerted to the risks and hazards associated with the task, the potential for changing conditions, their workspace and the inherent risks associated with a trip, slip or fall in that space.

13	Q	Personal protective equipment is a must if there is a slipping or tripping hazard?	
	A	FALSE	While PPE may be helpful, and it certainly may reduce the injury or impact of a mishap, it will not eliminate the hazard. Workers may be required to wear articles of PPE, and it may be advantageous in certain circumstances where there is a risk of slipping, tripping, or falling, but this is lesser solution in the hierarchy of controls. Eliminating the hazard is the best. Managing the work in and around the hazard is also required and is preferable to simply counting on PPE to protect you from the slip, trip or fall. PPE can reduce the impact and reduce injury and should always be a consideration, but PPE is not an excuse for not trying to eliminate the hazard or working safely around the hazard.
14	Q	Spills, wet floors and other liquids or materials that are on your shop floor should be cleaned up immediately?	
	A	TRUE	It is always best to create and then to maintain a safe working environment. Immediately cleaning up spills, in accordance with protocols and procedures appropriate to the substance is always best. (be certain of what the substance is. Once confirmed and known see MDS if uncertain of how to clean the liquid or material) Working around material, items or liquids that are not normally where this spill or item is, will increase the risk of slipping, tripping, or falling. When you have put something down or liquids or materials have come to rest on the floor in your workspace and they are not normally there, it is extremely easy to forget about such things resulting in a slip, trip or fall. Always clean up liquids, materials, and discarded or fallen items immediately. Put tools away, clean up spills, sweep up material, keep walkways clean and clear of debris.
15	Q	If I did not make the mess, I should not be the one to clean it up?	
	A	FALSE	While this is annoying it may save someone from a serious injury. Be a good worker, be a caring team member and put things away that are out of place, clean up materials or liquids that could cause slips, trips, or fall. (If the material is unknown to you use caution, find out what it is and clean in accordance with the instructions provided by the manufacturer of a product, consult MDS). Workers can be injured when the action of others leaves a mess, a slipping, tripping, or falling hazard. Always clean up after yourself, put things away.
16	Q	Slips, trips, and falls that do not result in injury should still be investigated?	
	A	TRUE	A simple investigation into a slipping, tripping, or falling incident that did not result in an injury will be helpful in preventing further such incidents in that situation or with other possible situations around the farm or ranch. Use the situation as a learning and teaching opportunity. Reporting and recording the near miss is extremely helpful if there is pain or if an injury surfaces over time.
17	Q	Employers need to have a system in place to educate, train and supervise workers on the selection of, and wearing of appropriate footwear?	
	A	TRUE	Employers need to know and be able to advise the right type of footwear for workers to wear based on the slip and trip hazards in the workplace. Your provincial regulators have information on their websites to help you select regulatory compliant footwear for regulated situations and circumstances. Consult your provincial agricultural health and safety professionals for assistance and advice.

18	Q	Slips happen when there is not enough grip or traction between the footwear and the walking surface?	
	A	TRUE	A lack of traction often results from substances on the walking surface such as water, ice, oil, grease, dust, and debris. These substances may come from work processes, spills, weather, leaks, loose items, or surfaces with varying traction. Inadequate footwear can also cause slips.
19	Q	Trips happen when people lose their balance after their feet collide with objects, tools, cords, machine parts, uneven surfaces, irregular pavement, or when they miss a step going up or down, getting on or off?	
	A	TRUE	Wear proper fitting footwear, always be aware of your walking path, look where you are going. Do not carry items that impede your vision and the ability to see where you are going. Always be alert to your surroundings and where you are. You may have to work where there is a rut in the ground or a surface issue or a tripping item that cannot be eliminated. You will need to think about it, remember it, and step over or go around it. Plan a route that does not take you across poor surfaces or over items whenever you can. Eliminating the hazard is always the best thing to do.
20	Q	Falls that occur from same elevation are among the highest number of time loss and injury causing falls in agriculture?	
	A	TRUE	While falls from elevation do occur in agriculture and require particular attention, training, safe work practices and special training and attention, most falls impacting agriculture are those that occur from the “same elevation”. While different jurisdictions in Canada classify such falls in different ways the common denominator is that they are from less than 60cm or two feet.
21	Q	Cellphone use is increasingly a factor in slips, trips, and falls?	
	A	TRUE	Cell phones are increasingly among the device or situation causing distraction and putting workers at increased risk of slipping, tripping, or falling. Cell phones have a great purpose and fill a great role in agriculture, but they must be used in a safe environment when safe to do so and in accordance with safe work practices for the task at hand.
22	Q	Putting tools away is more than just a safer way to work, it is good business?	
	A	TRUE	Knowing where things are when you need them, or when you must send someone to get something for you from the shop is safer, more effective, and more efficient. Putting tools and shop items away and having a designated place for all the things in your shop area is more than just a matter of safety, it is a better way to do business.
23	Q	Poor lighting is never a contributing factor in slip, trip and fall incidents?	
	A	FALSE	Poor or no lighting can often cause a slip, trip, or fall to occur. Having inspections that include lighting fixtures, lighting conditions ensure that all are operating and providing adequate light for the location or condition make any workspace safer. Ensure inspections are done and that they include lighting of working areas. If work in an area that is not able to be lighted, a farmyard, corral, or field, ensure a good headlamp or flashlight is available and used.

24	Q	Workers and family members have no say in what is considered a tripping hazard?	
	A	FALSE	Workers and family members must have a means of identifying hazards that will, or may, cause them or another to slip, trip, or fall. The input of all workers or family members should be considered invaluable in identifying the many and varied possible slipping and tripping hazards on your farm or ranch. Weather conditions, items struck by vehicles or animals are among the many things that can cause a change in the workplace which will result in a new slipping, tripping, or falling hazard or risk. Employers, owners, and supervisors need to encourage, and to then listen to input from workers and others. If a hazard is identified, it must be corrected. It may require that a procedure be put in place or education about the hazard provided as the situation is fixed.
25	Q	Slips trips and falls can be reduced in agricultural workplaces through inspection, training, alert workers, and caring employers?	
	A	TRUE	<p>If all people at a worksite are more aware of the reality that slips, trips, and falls are among the leading causes of injury in agriculture, and if all work together to eliminate these “fixable” hazards, then we will all make a difference.</p> <p>Consult your agricultural health and safety specialist for ideas and help with inspections.</p> <p>#standupforsafety</p>