

Montana agriculture

Slip, trip and fall hazards are common in agriculture. Farms combine uneven terrain, operating a variety of equipment, handling animals and facing extreme weather. These hazards can lead to sprains, fractures and serious injuries due to slip, trip and falls. In the past five years, the agricultural industry reported 372 slips, trip and fall injuries to Montana State Fund with a total cost of \$7,522,794.

What is a slip, trip and fall?

A slip happens when there is too little friction between a person's foot and the walking surface. A trip happens when a person's foot hits or catches on an object, causing them to lose balance. A fall occurs when a person loses balance and lands on the ground or a lower level.

Slip trip and falls in agriculture

• Slips

- Rain-soaked soil or muddy yards
- Manure or slurry on barn floors
- Spilled water around livestock watering areas
- Ice/snow covered terrain
- Oil, grease or fuel spills

• Trips

- Ruts from tractor tires or equipment
- Uneven gravel or dirt surfaces
- Holes in barn floors
- Hoses, ropes or extension cords across walkways
- Tools, clutter or equipment on the ground
- Animals suddenly moving or pushing workers
- Feed troughs, gates or fencing blocking paths
- Loose straw or bedding on floors
- Equipment used for feeding or milking
- Damaged or unstable ladders

• Falls

- Climbing into grain bins or silos
- Accessing haylofts or storage areas
- Mounting and dismounting equipment

• Prevention

- Use nonslip flooring mats
- Regularly clean manure and spills
- Apply gravel, sand or salt to icy areas
- Maintain drainage to prevent standing water
- Keep walkways clear and organized
- Fill holes and level rutted ground
- Route hoses and cables overhead or along walls
- Improve lighting in barns and sheds
- Keep clear paths in livestock areas
- Use proper animal handling techniques
- Install gates and barriers
- Maintain good housekeeping
- Wear proper footwear
- Always be aware of surroundings

Agricultural Safety

Slip, Trip and Fall



These safety guidelines are in place to help protect you. By signing below, you acknowledge that you have read and understand them.

Date: _____

Print

Sign
