

# SAFETY ALERT!



## Slips, Trips & Falls

The purpose of this safety alert is to alert employers and employees of the need to manage the risk of possible slip, trip or fall accidents in the workplace by both employees and visitors.

## Background

A delivery employee was returning to his vehicle when he slipped on the stairs on the client's premises and fractured his foot. The employee was booked off for **83** days, amounting to a total loss of **R32 536.00**.

In 2013, all MAKROSAFE clients together had a total of **210** slip, trip & fall incidents, this amounted to 1518 working days lost last year. The cost of the days lost amounted to around **R595 056.00**.

## Contributing factors

- The employee did not wear shoes with sufficient friction for use in slippery areas.
- The surface was wet after somebody had spilled oil.
- The area was insufficiently lit.
- The spill wasn't cleaned or marked immediately.
- There were no signs to warn visitors about the oils and greases used in the facility that could make floors slippery.

## Action Required

- Create good cleaning practices.
- Don't use highly polished flooring in the workplace
- Mark or clean all spills immediately.
- Secure carpets, rugs and mats.
- Ensure that flooring and walking surfaces have the same degree of traction in all areas.
- Keep areas well lit to increase visibility.
- Periodically check the condition of walkways and steps, and repair damages immediately.
- Always close the bottom drawers and cabinet doors.
- Secure electrical and phone cords out of traffic areas.
- Remove unnecessary obstacles from walkways.
- Place warning signs in areas where slippery floors or items can cause people to trip and fall.

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