

Safety Alert

Incident Photos



Incident Description

On November 18 at 9:45 am, the driver pulled up to the watering station to fill his water tank. He exited the truck, placed the water pipe in the tank (side mount), turned on the water, and went back to the cab in order to clean it out. As he was walking toward the rear of the truck, he stepped over the water hose, misjudged his step, and tripped. He reached out with his left hand to prevent a fall to the ground. He then jammed his thumb into the side of the truck. The result was a fracture to his left thumb, just above the knuckle.

Contributing factors: Pay strict attention to navigating walkways. Don't get distracted by either personal or routine tasks. Eliminate complacency while performing relatively mundane and routine behaviors.

Best Practices

- Everyday surroundings bring hazards and conditions that many **XXXXX** employees are not familiar with and could contribute to accidents at the plant. The following are suggestions to help prevent slips\trips\falls, which are the leading cause of accidents in the **XXXXX** division.
- Utilize an effective and adequate inspection process to catch/spot potential tripping hazards.
- Ensure that the inspection process is used during routine behavioral observations.
- Reinforce green hand, gold hand program and ensure that employees are always looking out for each other.

TRIPS!! to catch the foot on something so as to stumble.

- Damaged steps or misplaced items are major factors in trips. Report them ASAP to assure that corrective action is taken.
- Make sure that steps are in good shape and clear of obstacles.
- Always use handrails when ascending or descending stairs.

- Obstructions on walkways are probably one of the most common trip hazards. Tools, trash, rags, pallets, stock materials, and products that are located on a normal walkway can cause someone to trip and be injured. Keep all walkways free of debris.
- Damaged floors, such as broken concrete near joints or boards sticking up on wooden floors, are trip hazards. Failure to use signage to communicate uneven floors, such as a transition from a sloped floor to a level floor, can also cause trips. People should be made aware of the transition.
- Electrical power cords and water hoses strung across a work area or walkway are also trip hazards.
- Running could result in even the most athletic persons tripping over their feet or stubbing their toes and falling to the hard concrete floor, or even worse, tripping into a piece of machinery with hard, sharp edges.
- Poor lighting, where a person cannot see obstructions or damaged floors, can also result in a trip.
- Housekeeping plays a key role in preventing trips. Take the time to pick up tools, materials, and trash. If you have to work in a walkway, put some cones or barricades around your tools and materials so employees are more aware of the hazards and can go around your work area.
- Don't walk through the middle or on top of an obstruction in your work area. If possible, pick up the obstructions and put them away. If not, then walk around them.
- Do not carry items that block your forward vision. You need to be able to see obstructions, hoses, muddy areas, uneven surfaces, etc., in order to avoid the hazard.
- Watch the placement of temporary power cords or air hoses. Avoid stretching them across walkways or stair wells. If they must go across high traffic areas, tape them down to the floor and put a cone or some other warning sign over them.

Sign In: (please print legibly)

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