

Slips, Trips and Falls

One of the most common causes of injury at a winery is slips, trips and falls. An injury resulting from a fall can be both life-altering and life-threatening. By taking the following steps, you could greatly reduce the probability of a slip or fall injury at your facility.

- Section off walkways with tape or paint and keep the walkways free from all debris and clutter (i.e. pallets, boxes, hoses, pumps and power cords).
- Always rack or store hoses when not in use.
- Require your winery production employees to wear slip resistant footwear or rubber boots designed for working in and around liquids.
- Repair damaged flooring and broken drain grates.
- Inspect the facility for any hazards that may cause slips and falls. Be sure to inspect all mobile and fixed ladders or stairs. Destroy mobile ladders that are in disrepair. Keep a record of the inspection and document action taken to remove or reduce the hazard.
- Train employees on safe ladder practices.
 - Teamwork should be used when moving large ladders.
 - When an employee is using a frame or extension ladder, another person should be holding the ladder steady at the base.
 - Ladders should be tied off.
 - Fixed ladders over 20 feet should have a fall protection cage.
 - Employees should never lean out from the ladder.
- Approved man lifts or cages should be used. Cages that are raised with a forklift should be secured to the forklift with a chain or cable. Never use a pallet or forklift blades alone to raise a person.
- A fall protection system should be used when an employee is working over seven feet above ground level. Fall protection includes guard railing, lanyards, a body or waist harness, cables or approved ropes. Consult an expert before employing any means of fall protection.

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