Slips and Falls in Shipyards Meeting Kit

WHAT’S AT STAKE

Slips and falls in shipyards refer to accidents or incidents where individuals lose their balance, traction, or footing and fall to the ground or onto a surface within a shipyard setting. Shipyards are industrial workplaces where ships are built, repaired, and maintained.

WHAT’S THE DANGER

DANGERS OF SLIPS AND FALLS IN SHIPYARD WORK OPERATIONS

- Slips and falls can result from minor cuts and bruises to more severe injuries such as sprains, fractures, head injuries, or spinal cord injuries which lead to temporary or permanent disabilities.
- Slip and fall accidents can result in significant medical expenses for the injured worker, including hospitalization, rehabilitation, and impact the overall financial stability of the shipyard.
- When an employee is injured in a slip or fall incident, there is a loss of productivity for the individual and potentially disrupt the workflow and efficiency of the shipyard as a whole.
- Shipyard owners or employers may face lawsuits, regulatory fines, or penalties if they are found to be in violation of safety regulations or fail to provide a safe working environment.
- A shipyard with a history of slip and fall accidents may develop a negative reputation, which can affect its ability to attract and retain skilled workers.
- Slip and fall incidents can cause project delays as injured workers need time to recover, and investigations and safety

measures are implemented.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

PREVENTIVE MEASURES TO MAINTAIN PERSONAL SAFETY FROM SLIPS AND FALLS IN SHIPYARDS

- **Wear appropriate footwear:** Choose footwear with slip-resistant soles that provide good traction.
- **Be aware of your surroundings:** Pay attention to your surroundings and be alert to potential hazards.
- **Use designated walkways:** Stick to designated walkways and avoid shortcuts or walking in areas that are not meant for pedestrian traffic.
- **Follow safety signage:** Pay attention to safety signs and warnings posted in the shipyard.
- **Maintain good housekeeping:** Report any spills, leaks, or debris to the appropriate personnel.
- **Use handrails and grab bars:** When ascending or descending stairs, ramps, or ladders, always use handrails.
- **Proper lifting and carrying techniques:** Use proper lifting techniques when moving heavy objects to avoid straining yourself or losing balance.
- **Report hazards:** If you notice any potential slip and fall hazards, such as damaged flooring, inadequate lighting, or obstructed walkways, report them to your supervisor or the appropriate authority.
- **Stay informed and trained:** Participate in safety training programs provided by your employer.
- **Communicate and collaborate:** Maintain effective communication with your colleagues and supervisors regarding safety concerns or potential hazards.

HOW TO DEAL WITH SLIPS AND FALLS IN A SHIPYARD

Immediate response to the incident:

- **Assess the situation:** Quickly assess the injured person’s condition.
- **Provide first aid:** If you are trained in first aid, provide

immediate assistance to the injured person.
- **Notify supervisors or managers:** Report the incident to your immediate supervisor,

Incident investigation and documentation:

- **Conduct an investigation:** Determine the cause of the slip or fall incident.
- **Document the incident:** Record all relevant details of the incident, including the date, time, and location.

Medical treatment and support:

- **Arrange for medical care:** Ensure that the injured person receives appropriate medical treatment.
- **Provide support:** Offer assistance and support to the injured person throughout their recovery process.

Preventive measures and follow-up actions:

- **Address immediate hazards:** Take immediate action to address any identified hazards.
- **Review and revise safety protocols:** Assess the effectiveness of existing safety protocols.
- **Provide additional training:** Conduct refresher training sessions or provide targeted training.
- **Regular inspections and maintenance:** Implement a system for regular inspections.
- **Promote a culture of safety:** Encourage and foster a culture of safety awareness.

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT PREVENT SLIPS AND FALLS IN SHIPYARDS

- Non-slip footwear features specialized soles that provide better traction on slippery surfaces.
- Applying anti-slip tapes or coatings on walking surfaces can significantly improve traction.
- Handrails and guardrails provide stability and support while ascending or descending stairs, ramps, or elevated platforms.
- Anti-fatigue mats offer cushioning and improved traction in

areas where workers stand for long periods.

- Clear safety signs and markings play a crucial role in alerting workers to potential slip and fall hazards.
- Properly illuminated work areas, walkways, and stairs ensure that potential hazards are clearly visible, minimizing the chances of accidents.
- Safety cones and barriers are effective tools for cordoning off areas that are under repair, wet, or otherwise hazardous.

FINAL WORD

Preventing slips and falls in shipyards is essential to ensure worker safety, protect financial stability, maintain productivity, uphold a positive reputation, comply with regulations, enhance employee morale, and promote continuous safety improvement.