

# Safe Housekeeping

Housekeeping continues to be a big contributor to job site accidents. Poor housekeeping contributes to incidents by creating hazards that can cause injuries such as slips, trips and falls. Paper, debris, clutter and spills may be fire hazards.

## Housekeeping

Poor housekeeping can be a cause of accidents such as:

- Tripping over loose objects on floors, stairs, and platforms
- Being hit by falling objects or slipping on greasy, wet or dirty surfaces
- Striking against projecting, poorly stacked items or misplaced material
- Cutting, puncturing, or tearing the skin of hands or other parts of the body on protruding nails, wire or steel strapping



## Benefits of Good Housekeeping

Effective housekeeping results in:

- Reduced handling to ease the flow of materials
- Fewer tripping and slipping accidents in clutter-free and spill-free areas
- Decreased fire hazards
- Less worker exposures to hazardous substances (e.g. dusts, vapors)
- Better control of tools and materials, including inventory and supplies
- More efficient equipment cleanup and maintenance
- Cleaner conditions leads to improved health and effective use of space.

## How to Implement an Effective Program

Good housekeeping is “maintained” not “achieved”. Cleaning and organizing must be done regularly, not just at the end of the shift. Periodic cleanups are costly and ineffective in reducing accidents. A good housekeeping program assigns responsibilities for the following:

- clean up during the shift
- day to day cleanup
- waste disposal
- removal of unused material
- Proper storage
- inspection to ensure cleanup is complete

