# Student worksheet - Slips, trips and falls

## Key messages

* While on work experience you may observe some employees working from heights.
* **You will not be required to work at heights while on your work experience placement.**

## Activity 1: What you should know about slips, trips and falls

Ask a classmate, teacher, parent or carer to help you read through this safety information about slips, trips and falls in the workplace.

* Falls are a major cause of workplace fatalities and serious injuries.
* Employers must take steps to safeguard workers against falls.
* Falls or trips can happen on the ground and at a height.
* Keeping your workspace clean and tidy will help prevent accidents and injuries.

Examples of typical fall hazards include:

* work from ladders – such as painting, repairing or clearing gutters
* tree work which requires climbing to reach the branches to be pruned
* raising workers on pallets to reach items stored in high racking or shelving
* climbing onto the tops of vehicles such as tankers or livestock carriers
* mezzanine floors without adequate guardrails or handrails.

## Reducing the risk of falls

Victorian law states that employers must take steps to safeguard workers against falls. Some of the ways that risk can be removed include:

* keeping the ground free from slippery service such at wet floors and tiles
* cords and objects should never be left where people can trip over them
* some fall prevention devices include a scaffold or guardrail, industrial safety net or safety harness system.

These require specific training and instruction for the worker, and purpose-designed equipment which must be regularly checked for any wear or damage.

## The use of ladders

**Remember - You will not be required to work at heights while on your work experience placement.**

* Where the use of a ladder is the only practicable way to do a job requiring work above 2 metres, employers must make sure the ladder is appropriate to the task.
* Ladders should be ‘tied off’ where practicable to ensure that they are stable and will not slips sideways or fall backwards.
* Ladders should always be carefully checked before use, and should never be used where the ground is sloping or soft.
* Tools and equipment should never be carried up or down a ladder – they should be raised and lowered in a bag.
* A person on the ground can do this, while at the same time keeping watch for pedestrians and other traffic.

## Activity 2: What should you do?

1. Jack is undertaking his work experience at a supermarket. He notices that a bottle of sauce has been dropped in an aisle. What should he do?

*(Tick the correct box)*

* Walk away and continue doing his job
* Tell a customer
* Find his supervisor
* Tell a workmate at morning tea

1. Paris is working at her work experience in an office. A maintenance person is working with a power tool and the power cord is placed across a door way. What should she do?

*(Tick the correct box)*

* Ignore it and continue doing her work
* Put out a caution sign
* Get a mop and bucket
* Ask the supervisor for help
* Move the power cord herself
* Speak to the maintenance person

1. Liam is completing his work experience with a landscaper. His supervisor asked him to climb an extension ladder to cut a tree. What should he do?

*(Tick the correct box)*

* Climb the ladder as he is asked
* Tell his supervisor he is not allowed to climb ladders
* Ask the supervisor to hold the ladder while he climbs up

1. Ella is doing her work experience at a library. Ella has been asked to put the books away on a shelf that she cannot reach without a step ladder. What should she do?

*(Tick the correct box)*

* Ask her supervisor if she can use the step ladder
* Tell her supervisor she is not allowed to climb ladders
* Leave the books she cannot reach on another shelf