

# Slips, Trips, and Falls

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## *INTRODUCTION*

- Falls are not always taken seriously . . . .
- Can cause injury, lost time or even be fatal.
- The cost of falls :
  - \* 10% of workplace deaths each year
  - \* 350,000 fall incidents in 1994
  - \* 80,000 slip and trip incidents in 1993
  - \* 8.5 work days lost per incident

## *PHYSICAL FORCES IN A FALL*

**FRICTION:** The resistance between things, such as between your shoes and the surface you walk on. Without it you are likely to slip & fall.

**MOMENTUM:** Affected by the speed & size of moving object. The more you weigh, and the faster you are moving, the harder your fall would be.

**GRAVITY:** Force that pulls you to the ground when you fall. If you lose your center of balance, you will fall and the force of gravity makes you hit the ground.

## *WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU SLIP ?*

- They are a loss of balance from too little friction between you and the surface walked on.
- Caused by a loss of traction:
  - \* Wet surfaces from spills, weather, etc.
  - \* Hurrying or running.
  - \* Wrong kind of footwear.
  - \* Inattention to where you are walking.