

# Security Spotlight

*An informational Guide for Securitas Canada Clients and Employees*



Securitas Canada, November 2016

## Safety is No Accident



**“Have a nice trip; see you next fall.”**

**The line usually gets a chuckle after someone loses his or her footing and harmlessly stumbles or falls. But there’s nothing funny about slips, trips and falls (STF) that lead to injuries.**

### *Safety Is No Accident*

In Canada, over 42,000 workers are injured annually due to fall accidents. Statistics show that the majority (66%) of falls happen on the same level resulting from slips and trips. The remaining 34% are falls from height.

### *Avoid Unplanned Trips*

While falls are among the most common accidents, they are also among the most preventable. What’s the best way to prevent slips, trips and falls? First and foremost, pay strict attention to where you are stepping/walking at all times. Do not multitask while on patrol. Always look where you are going.

Do not look at paperwork, talk on the phone, or use the radio while walking. While indoors, watch for clutter, debris, cords, wires crossing the floor, and open file cabinet drawers. Stay alert for unexpected changes in the floor level, such as a step up, loose tiles, protrusions from the floor, buckled or torn carpeting, wet/recently washed or waxed flooring or greasy/oily surfaces. When walking outdoors, be aware of curbs, potholes, cracks in pavement, dips in terrain, stones, debris, muddy areas, snow-covered hazards, standing water or ice.

If you must walk on a surface that is slippery or uneven, walk slowly and take short shuffling type steps. Be careful when you come indoors from wet or snowy weather. Remember that your boots or shoes are likely to be slippery and there may be wet spots on the floors, a wet carpet or wet door mats. Always wear shoes with slip resistant soles.

You need to see where you are going. Avoid carrying a load which will block your view. Only walk in areas with well-lit walkways and stairways. Always turn on the lights before entering a room or dark section of a building, and use a flashlight to shine into dark areas.

If needed, use a flashlight when walking or patrolling in a predetermined safe patrol route in areas with insufficient light, moving slowly and checking ahead with the flashlight beam at your feet before walking into the poorly lighted area to check for STF hazards. Always use available handrails when going up and down stairs, ramps or inclined surfaces, and do not attempt to take more than one step at a time. If a hazard is noted, walk around it, not over it, or take a different route.

## Safety as a Priority

Of course, safety in the workplace goes beyond just preventing falls. Overall safety on the job is a concern of every employer and worker. The most successful workplace safety programs require a commitment from the entire company including guards, supervision and upper management.

At Securitas, safety training is proactive, not reactive. Branch Managers have access to multiple safety training materials, like training aids, handouts, Safety Flashes, and PowerPoint presentations. This gives each office the flexibility to choose its topics and keeps training relevant to each site.

If a person has an accident or is injured on the job, it affects everyone. In addition to the person or persons directly involved, such incidents also can impact families, co-workers, client companies and Securitas Canada in terms of pain and suffering, work disruptions, lost time injuries, and costs.

That's why safety is so important, and why always adhering to safe work habits, and never circumventing or ignoring the procedures that have been established to perform a job safely, is part of everyone's job. The bottom-line advice for staying safe at work is to remember that safety is no accident. Always "Think Safety First" before undertaking any task, no matter how many times you have done it before. If you see someone acting in an unsafe manner, stop and ask them if they have considered the potential consequences of their actions. Offer assistance by explaining a safer way of performing the task.

## Summary

Maintaining an attitude of safety is a critical part of staying safe on the job. Here are six fundamental elements of a good safety attitude that can direct safer work habits:

**Awareness** Pay attention. Stay alert to the possible hazards in your work environment so that you can take steps to correct or guard against them.

**Focus** Concentrate on the task(s) at hand. Distractions, boredom or fatigue can lead to accidents and other safety hazards.

**Strength** Have the strength to do the right thing, even when it's easier not to. Follow safety procedures and post orders completely, every time.

**Patience** Take the time to do things correctly every time – like always buckling your seatbelt, even on quick trips. There are no shortcuts to safety.

**Responsibility** Take responsibility for a safe work environment to benefit yourself and others. Immediately notify a supervisor of any noted unsafe conditions or safety concerns, so that they can be addressed, and other employees can be informed of the conditions/concerns and precautions necessary to avoid injury. You may also elect to report unsafe conditions through the Securitas Hotline – 1-800-528-6556, [www.securitashotline.ca](http://www.securitashotline.ca).

**Think** Stop to think before you act. Accidents are not always the result of bad luck. They occur when someone decides –consciously or not – to take a chance. Be smart and avoid taking unnecessary risks and always **"Think Safety First."**