

WorkCover picks up on falls danger

WorkCover NSW is reminding businesses of the importance of preventing injuries from slips, trips and falls.

The reminder comes after figures revealed more than 71,000 workers had been injured and 24 killed in NSW in the past three years. General Manager of the Work Health and Safety Division at WorkCover, John Watson said slips, trips and falls were among the most common causes of workplace injuries and deaths.

“Slips, trips and falls include falling from a height, falling over on the same level as well as stepping, kneeling or sitting on an object that causes an injury,” Mr Watson said.

“From 2009 to 2011, there were 71,932 workers compensation claims for workers injured or killed as a result of slips, trips and falls at a cost of \$649 million to the *NSW Workers Compensation Scheme*.”

He said common causes of workplace slips, trips and falls included spillages, workplace clutter, uneven floor surfaces and the use of ladders.

“Despite this, there are simple steps businesses can take to reduce the risk of an incident,” he said. “These include identifying the problem, assessing the cause, eliminating or controlling the hazard and monitoring it.”

Mr Watson said if a worker was injured the business must have an adequate return-to-work plan for the injured worker. “Getting back to work quickly is the best outcome for an injured worker,” he said. “For those unable to return to their pre-injury job, WorkCover has a range of vocational rehabilitation programs to help workers return to suitable employment.

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Workplaces reminded to take care

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