



Bulletin Date:	Monday, December 03, 2018
Bulleting Number:	15
Originator:	Executive Director: Physical Plant
Reference:	Incident Prevention

Employee was vacuuming entry mats that had accumulated a large amount of debris. After performing the activity for a while, the employee developed pain in their right side.

Root Cause: Repetitive motion of vacuuming combined with increased friction of the accumulated material.

Safety Moment: Recognize when the task is not routine; use alternative methods to collect large amounts of accumulated material (e.g. sweep up the material). Follow training for good ergonomic practice. Ergonomic basics: Maintain neutral body positions and use large muscles rather than small muscles. For vacuuming, this means to use leg muscles and keep arm in neutral position.

While sweeping wet leaves an outside stairwell and working downward, the employee slipped and fell backwards.

Root Cause: Failure to take the necessary extra precaution while working on a wet and slippery surface; not looking in the direction of travel (stepping backward down the steps).

Safety Moment: Look in the direction of travel. Remove wet material from work surface. When possible, start at the bottom and work up the steps, removing the slip hazard before moving up.

Employee was manually lifting and transferring material from the loading dock area to the rear of a collection truck. The twisting motion of the transferring process resulted in a sprain/strain to the lower back.

Root Cause: Twisting motion of the body.

Safety Moment: Always move your feet when lifting and moving material; your feet should always be pointing in the direction of what you are lifting and where you are placing the load. Where possible, change the process to eliminate the need for twisting. Or, take smaller loads.

As the employee was working backwards to move material beneath a raised floor, she/he received a phone call. The employee was partially beneath a bolted down table and when trying to stand up to answer the call, struck his/her lower back against the table.

Root Cause: Distracted employee answering work phone in the middle of a task.

Safety Moment: Focus on task that you are performing, and do not let yourself get distracted. Allow your phone to go to voicemail, finish your task then retrieve your phone.

Employee was performing overhead work when material splattered back, striking the top edge of their safety glasses; some of the material got behind the safety glasses and into their eye.

Root Causes: The selected personal protective equipment was not sufficient.

Safety Moment: If possible position yourself so you're not in the line of fire. Take a four-second safety moment to determine if your current personal protective equipment is adequate for the task.

While lowering her/his body to remove a screw, experienced significant knee pain.

Root Causes: Motion and position of the body.

Safety Moment: Perform micro-stretches to loosen up and warm up muscles before performing strenuous tasks. Use different body positions, kneel rather than bending.

NEED HELP RESOLVING AN UNSAFE CONDITION?

Report it to Your Supervisor Immediately

Contact Customer Service at: 608.263.3333

Physical Plant Safety Director: Mike Peña 608.265.2321

Safety Investigation Request: michael.pena@wisc.edu