



INTRODUCTION

Housekeeping is an issue that arises time and again in the database of near-misses. The types of near-misses that are reported to be housekeeping related range from improperly securing items, to neglecting to clean up after a task, or an off-shift activity. Looking specifically at weather decks, a large number of the records indicate slip and trip hazards in the form of objects left in walkways, on and near ladders. To quote one of the near-miss reports, “the deck is constantly changing”, and therefore requires the crew to be aware of potential hazards.



These types of near-miss reports can be largely eliminated purely by picking up after a job is complete, running hoses, wires and lines in a way that minimizes the risk of tripping, and where necessary placing signs around work areas when the job is in process to alert those entering a work zone to be more attentive.



Strategies for reducing slip and trip hazards due to ladder and walkway obstructions:

- Run hoses, wires, and lines in such a way as to avoid creating trip hazards
- Return tools, slings, tubes and other task related equipment when through using it.
- Clean up debris and rags when you have an opportunity during the task or on completion
- Be aware of surroundings and environment
- Improve communication



Remember that while you and the local crew may be well aware of the objects and lines in the work area, to others passing through they are hazards. It is important to not only communicate that work is in progress, but to also keep work areas clean and tidy and return everything to its proper place after the job is done.

Accidents happen, however, when there is opportunity to prevent accidents and near-misses that opportunity should be seized. Promoting general safety awareness will encourage the crew both on board and ashore to think about potential consequences of near-misses such as these.

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