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INCIDENT ALERT

A worker was returning from break and was walking toward their work area. She was walking across a concrete floor, portions of which were wet from a recent rain. As she rounded a corner she slipped on the wet concrete. She grabbed onto a wall stud next to her to keep from falling, and in the process bruised and twisted her left hand. She reported the injury and was transported to a nearby medical facility where she was given a prescription for pain relievers and anti-inflammatory medicine and released to return to restricted duty.

LESSONS LEARNED

Rain had been falling off and on for several days, and despite efforts to control the water areas were still wet. During the incident investigation it was decided to dedicate more effort to eliminating the standing water, and additional laborers were assigned to the task. Additionally, craft workers were reminded of the potential for wet floors and asked to avoid walking through wet areas if possible. They were also reminded to take extra care if they need to pass through a wet area. It was fortunate the worker was wearing gloves, possibly preventing a much more serious injury.

The change of season brings with it changing work conditions which can contribute to the potential for injury on our jobsites. Though our spring and summer months were surprisingly dry this year, we are now setting records for rainfall in the Seattle area. Slipping and tripping hazards are common at construction sites and we must do whatever is possible to minimize or eliminate them and maintain good, clear walk paths and emergency egress routes. Also, remember to wear good substantial footwear with adequate traction suited for the conditions you are working in.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Ask your contractor about how they manage changing weather conditions and the effect they may have on the jobsite, particularly the potential for standing water and slippery walking surfaces.

2. Look at the primary walk paths and work areas on your project. Is there standing water? Are adequate efforts being made to control slipping hazards? Are workers in the area aware of the hazards and are they taking steps to correct or avoid them?

3. Share this Incident Alert with your contractor and ask them to share it with their workers.

Distribution: All CPO Staff