

Safety and health alert

30/00 Slips, trips and falls

- hospitality industry

Incident

An employee of a café suffered a serious fracture to her ankle when she slipped on a flattened cardboard carton, which had been placed on the floor. The floor had just been cleaned by staff close to the end of the day and the cardboard was put down to maintain the cleanliness of the floor.

Factors

- The floor was wet and slippery;
- The cardboard presented a surface likely to lead to a slip or trip injury;
- Floor was cleaned whilst employees were still using the facility to serve customers; and
- The cardboard had been laid down in an area where staff regularly had to walk in the course of their work.

Recommendations

- Flattened cardboard cartons should not be placed on floors where persons are likely to be working;
- Floor cleaning to take place at the end of the day when service to customers has ceased; and
- Floor of the workplace should have an unbroken and slip resistant surface free from any obstruction that may cause a person to trip or fall. (*Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 3.18*).

Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site www.worksafe.wa.gov.au, or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: safety@docep.wa.gov.au.

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