

## Preventing Slip & Fall Injury

### **Lesson Description:**

This lesson covers working safely in a school nutrition environment and the importance of personal responsibility to consistently identify workplace hazards. Practice based activities are used to identify work hazards that can lead to injuries in the kitchen and adjacent areas as well as the consequences of not taking action when a hazard is identified.

Falls not only hurt your team morale and business. They can lead to absenteeism, decreased productivity, high insurance costs and if a customer falls there could heavy liability for the district as well as anyone deemed to be negligent. It is very important to educate yourself and co-workers on how everyone can help prevent slips and falls.

### **Lesson Objectives:**

At the end of this lesson the participant will be able to:

1. Identify workplace hazards that can lead to slips & falls and the locations they most likely occur.
2. Understand they have a responsibility to identify hazards, work safely and to notify supervisors of potential slip / fall hazards.

### **Discussion Points:**

#### **General Safety**

- Wear closed toe, slip-resistant and flat-soled shoes to work.
- Watch out for potential hazards in kitchen, dining room and receiving areas.
- To avoid poorly lit areas - When lights go out, replace or report them.
- Always ask for assistance with heavy or bulky loads.
- Do not attempt to carry loads you cannot see over or around.
- Watch your step at all times.
- Walk from area to area in the food service department - don't run!

#### **Indoors**

- Make sure all floor mats are kept clean and in place at all times.
- Sweep and damp mop regularly to keep kitchen floor clean and dry.
- Place caution signs around the area you are mopping or when floors are still wet.
- Immediately notify the manager of damaged flooring.
- Keep kitchen aisles clear.
- Do not set up stumbling hazards. Keep waste cans, bun trays, product cases, etc. away from walking areas.

#### **Outside**

- Keep loading dock clear of litter, equipment and wet and slippery spots.
- Immediately notify supervisor of outdoor hazards.
- Shovel snow, scrape ice and use melting chemicals on icy walkways.