

# Health, Safety and Environment

## Lessons Learned

September 2017, NL-LL-17-29

## Walking Surfaces

**Subject:** Employee Injures Wrist when Slipping on Icy Ground

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**Situation:** A worker was walking across icy ground at a research station in Greenland, when a slip occurred, resulting in an OSHA recordable wrist injury. The area had a slight gradient and the worker was carrying a light load at the time. The event was reported and the worker assessed at the onsite clinic.



Above is a picture of typical site conditions

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**Lessons Learned:** Walking surfaces provide a constant source of risk in this year-round, ice-covered environment. There are many different approaches which can combine to reduce walking working surface risk, such as PPE (boot-mounted traction devices, aggressive soles), condition the route (scratch the surface and/or apply gravel to increase traction), task necessity, engineering solutions (placement of mats or grating in high risk locations and adjacent to buildings). The appropriate combination of mitigation steps may differ for each location.

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**Recommendation** Ensure fall risk remains a **frequent topic of conversation** among the work force. Assess the **PPE available** for the conditions faced. Assign someone to perform **daily assessments (and mitigation)** of high risk locations. Ensure your work force understand a fall, even one perceived as low risk, can be **life altering**.

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*Lessons Learned are for CH2M, CH2M Client, and CH2M Subcontractor use to assist in incident prevention and continuous improvement in HSE performance. Reference to specific organizations, projects, and individuals should be avoided to respect confidentiality and privacy.*

**Target Zero.** Make a difference

