



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration



Langley Research Center Safety Alert

Date: 02/15/01

SA-02-01

TO: All Langley Employees

FROM: 429/Head, Office of Safety and Facility Assurance, OSMA

SUBJECT: Slip Hazard

On February 9, 2001, a serious incident occurred in which an employee entering a facility slipped on a wet tile floor, sustaining a hip and shoulder injury. An investigation determined that the floor had just been mopped and the warning cone placed in the hallway did not provide sufficient warning of the hazard.

The Office of Safety and Facility Assurance (OSFA), Office of Logistics Management (OLM) and Impact Services, Inc. (custodial contractor) are implementing the following corrective actions to prevent recurrence of this type of incident:

- Effective immediately, cones will be no longer be used to identify this type of hazard and signage indicating "WET FLOOR" will be placed in all locations recently mopped warning of the hazard.
- Beginning March 1, 2001, the frequency of custodial services will increase as a result of the recent LaRC Infrastructure Improvement Initiative, and new custodial service schedules will be implemented. All Facility Coordinators will receive a schedule of custodial services for their assigned facilities.
- Upon receipt of the new custodial service schedules, OSFA requests Facility Coordinators provide a copy of the schedules to all facility employees, emphasizing the times floor mopping tasks are performed, cautioning them to be alert to the hazard. OSFA will also request the schedules be posted on facility bulletin boards and/or restrooms.

(This Safety Alert to be posted on Facility Bulletin Boards for a Minimum of 30 days.)

- Surveillance of custodial services will be increased to ensure applicable procedures and safety precautions are being met. Both the contractor and OLM personnel will conduct this surveillance.

Employees should be aware of their surroundings and activities being performed within their work areas, paying close attention to warning signs, barriers, etc. Slips are not only caused by wet surfaces, as in this case, but by spills and slippery surfaces caused by inclement weather conditions. If you encounter a wet or slippery surface, shorten your stride and use extreme caution. When you spill something, make sure it is cleaned up immediately. Also, wearing shoes with slip-resistant soles is encouraged.

Any questions concerning this issue should be directed to the Office of Safety and Facility Assurance at extension 47233.

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