

What's wrong with this photo?



When you're committed to workplace injury prevention, a picture is worth a thousand words. In fact, depending on the intended message, a photo can speak volumes about how to work safely — or unsafely.

As part of our responsibility to demonstrate safe work practices, we scrutinize every photo we publish. Based on feedback we receive from readers, we know you're equally vigilant. We regularly get comments pointing out a potential hazard that's been overlooked in one of our photos, so, once again, we've decided to give you the chance to share your expertise — for everyone's benefit.

The photo above has been deliberately staged to display dangerous work habits. We're inviting you — as dedicated employers, employees, and health and safety professionals — to tell us how many hazards you spot. Email your responses to wwtp@worksafebc.com by March 29, 2019. And, if you'd like to try the online version, go to worksafemagazine.com, and click on "What's wrong with this photo." Please include your full name, work title, workplace, and workplace location.

We'll publish our top response, and provide our own answers. Ultimately, we hope this exercise reminds you to use the same laser eyed precision in creating your own injury free workspaces.

Slips, trips, falls avoidable with effective safety inspections



This photo shows some of the most common tripping hazards in a workplace. Slips, trips, and falls put workers at risk of sprains, strains, bruises, concussion, and fractures. See below for some of the key issues identified by WorkSafeBC occupational safety officer Carl Howells.

The worker

- The worker is not wearing appropriate personal protective equipment.
- The boxes are obstructing the worker's view of the hazards on the worksite.
- The worker is not carrying the boxes with proper ergonomics in mind.

The worksite

- Materials are being stored on the ramp, which are obstructing the walkway.
- There's an electrical cord laid across the ramp. This creates a tripping hazard for the worker.
- The lower edge of the ramp is in disrepair, posing a possible trip hazard to the worker.

- There is spilled water on the floor at the bottom of the ramp, posing a slip hazard.
- The ramp does not provide any traction for the worker.
- The overturned caution sign is not visibly showing and it could pose a trip hazard. Also, the spill could have been cleaned up, instead of just placing a sign there.
- The boxes and materials on site are not stored in an upright/stable manner.
- The tools not stored properly on the cart. There are hanging cords posing more tripping hazards.
- There is combustible material stored with drums of unknown product/chemicals.
- The electrical cord has a spliced repair.
- There is not a product label on the bottle on the cart.
- If the worker slipped and grabbed the cart, the cart itself could fall on the worker.
- The workplace is not performing effective safety inspections as unsafe conditions and practices have developed. ☹️

Contest winner



The winner of our November/December "What's wrong with this photo?" contest is **Shauna-Lee Hildred**, store manager at Growers Supply in Kelowna, B.C. Here's what she found:

- There is a taped up extension cord — meaning that there is likely some damage to the cord. Taping the cord is not a safe way to deal with exposed wires, the cord should be replaced or repaired by a professional.
- There is an extension cord placed on the floor, which is a tripping hazard for those walking and puts the cord at a great risk of being damaged.
- There is an unguarded spill on the floor, which causes a slipping hazard.
- The "caution" sign has fallen, which is a tripping hazard in itself, and also the sign no longer notifies anyone that there is a wet floor.
- Items stacked on the floor pose a tripping hazard, and being stacked sideways they are less stable. The filters could fall and become even more of a tripping hazard.
- The driver is carrying boxes that block his line of sight. There are many hazards he can miss because he can't see them.
- There are stacked boxes too close to the ceiling and could interfere with ventilation in this area.
- There's an unlabeled bottle, which could contain any number of things. This can cause a risk of chemical exposure as workers can't know what it is, and poses a risk for cleanup procedures. All chemicals need to have at least a workplace label.
- There is an unattended tool that is still energized. It can be hazardous to the next person that picks it up, especially if they are unaware that it is still energized.
- The ramp is made of plywood and may not have the correct weight rating to be used as a storage floor and a walking ramp.
- The lip on the ramp is uneven and could cause a tripping hazard.
- There are chemicals stored on the floor and may be flammable. They are also stored at an angle which puts them at a higher risk of tipping.
- The worker is not wearing safety footwear.
- There is a pressurized chemical left without a lid and near a piece of equipment that is still energized. The chemical should be stored safely when not in use. ☹️

Research Training Award grant

WorkSafeBC is looking for graduate students with a focus on workplace health and safety. We're proud to support the training of new researchers in B.C. — who'll be able to answer the critical research questions of tomorrow.

To learn more or to apply today, visit worksafebc.com/researchservices
Submission deadline closes on March 22, 2019.