Preventing Slips, Trips, and Falls

The Morton Arboretum | ARBORVERSITY Horticulture Training Program

Course Description

Slips, trips, and falls are among the most common hazards in active work environments, and horticulture presents its own set of challenges. Outdoor conditions, changing terrain, multi-team environments, and the physical nature of the work can increase risk in ways that are easy to overlook. This course is designed to help horticulture professionals work more safely by strengthening awareness of those risks and the role each person plays in preventing injuries.

Learning Objectives

After taking this course, you will be able to:

1. Recognize common slip, trip, and fall hazards in garden environments, including uneven terrain, wet or slippery surfaces, debris, irrigation equipment, tools, changes in elevation, and changing weather conditions.
2. Anticipate how work activities and environmental conditions can create or increase hazards.
3. Use safe work practices to reduce the risk of slips, trips, and falls, including selecting appropriate routes, maintaining clear work areas, adjusting pace and movement to conditions, and maintaining visibility and balance while working.
4. Choose appropriate footwear and traction measures for working conditions and recognize when changing conditions require additional precautions.
5. Correct or control slip, trip, and fall hazards when it is safe and appropriate to do so, and take steps to protect others when a hazard can’t be immediately corrected.
6. Communicate and report hazards according to workplace procedures so that recurring, significant, or unresolved conditions can be addressed.