

# The Critical Role of Housekeeping in Precast Plants

## From The NPCA Safety Committee

### Why It Matters

In a precast concrete plant, housekeeping isn't just about appearances — it's a primary safety defense. According to OSHA, slips, trips and falls (STFs) cause nearly 15% of all accidental deaths, second only to vehicle accidents. In our heavy industrial environment, these risks are magnified.

### Key Facts

- STFs account for more than 25% of all reported injury claims and major lost workdays.
- Hazards like form oil, concrete slurry, rebar and stray tie wire turn floors into danger zones.
- OSHA standard 29 CFR 1910.22 requires all workplaces to be clean, orderly and sanitary.

### What Effective Housekeeping Looks Like

- Clean spills immediately — form oil, concrete slurry, water and/or other liquids create slick, unsafe surfaces.
- Organize materials daily — store rebar, dunnage, forms, rigging and tools properly.
- Maintain clear walkways — eliminate clutter in high-traffic areas.
- Control dust and debris — prevent accumulation of dust and other debris (e.g. rebar cutoffs, stray tie wire, concrete) that can cause slips or other health risks.

### The Bigger Picture

- Clean plants reduce injury rates and support a strong safety culture.
- Good housekeeping lowers the Experience Modification Rate (EMR), which may reduce workers' comp costs and could avoid OSHA fines.
- A clean and organized plant signals a professional, proactive operation.

### Bottom Line

A "house-proud" precast plant is a safer, more efficient, and more profitable plant, proving that the simplest tool in the safety kit is often the broom.

Keep it clean. Keep it safe. Keep it professional.