

SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS FROM HEIGHT - JOINT HSENI/DISTRICT COUNCIL ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE	5th Sept 2017
TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	
FOR INFORMATION	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	To provide Information on an initiative aimed at reducing workplace accidents arising from slips, trips and falls from height.
Lead Officer	Food, Health & Safety and Consumer Protection Manager
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A

1.0 Background

The enforcement of health and safety at work in Northern Ireland is carried out jointly by the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) and District Councils. In February 2011 HSENI and District Councils launched a joint strategy for the better regulation of health and safety at work in Northern Ireland. The strategy “Health and safety at work: protecting lives not stopping them”, commits HSENI and district councils to work together to tackle the major causes of accidents and ill health in workplaces in Northern Ireland. A key goal of the strategy is to focus on workplace health issues, including slips, trips and falls from height.

In 2017/18 HSENI and District Councils are focussing on workplace accidents arising from slips, trips and falls from height. Over 1/3 of reported workplace injuries in 2015/16 was result of a slip, trip or fall from height. Many of these accidents are easily prevented by adopting simple steps to manage risks in the workplace.

When Environmental Health Officers visit relevant workplaces as part of the initiative they will expect slip, trip and fall hazards to be considered in the business risk assessment. Where hazards are identified effective control measures need to be considered and put in practice.

This issue could potentially affect a number of business sectors appropriate to Council enforcement, including:

- Warehouses and retailers
- Cleaners
- Catering establishments
- Bars

HSENI and district councils have developed information leaflets that provide useful advice and guidance on slips, trips and falls from height which can be found at <https://www.hseni.gov.uk/publications/slips-and-trips>

Information on the initiative, which runs until the end of March 2018, is also included on Council's website.