

TOOLBOX TALK, November 3rd, 2025

Upcoming Training Opportunities

- **Carpenter's** - MEWP Nov. 8th - MEWP Nov. 22nd - Forklift Nov. 22nd
- **Taper's Unions** - Nothing Scheduled

Check your training records at fsstools.com under the *Training Records* tab to see what you need.

To sign up for classes, visit swmsctf.org or check schedules at fsstools.com.

Punctures

So far this year, we've had **seven puncture incidents**, compared to **three in 2022**, **one in 2023**, and **one in 2024**. While the increase could be attributed to more manhours, it remains a serious concern. Reviewing this year's records shows that **poor housekeeping** contributed to **four incidents**, and **three** resulted from **unsafe hand/foot placement**.

Housekeeping

Good housekeeping plays a vital role in keeping us safe. When our work area is clear, the risk of stepping on nails, screws, or other sharp objects is drastically reduced. Similarly, when edges and wires are properly stored, there's less chance of accidental punctures. Keeping your workspace organized and free of debris can prevent avoidable injuries.

Hand Placement

The punctures caused by poor hand placement appear to stem from **inexperience**, **insufficient training**, or **rushing through tasks without proper planning**. Placing your hand in the line of fire is an open invitation to injury. Always think ahead and position hands and fingers out of harm's way.

Staying safe requires **conscious, well-planned work** and **consistent attention to housekeeping**. Take time to plan your tasks carefully and keep your work area clean. These simple habits go a long way in preventing punctures and other injuries.

Fall, Slip Prevention

Hurrying through the door before a shift starts, hitting a patch of slush and suddenly we find ourselves on the floor, wondering what went wrong. It only takes a small patch of ice on the stairs, a puddle near the entrance, or frost on the sidewalk to cause a fall.

Stay safe this Fall by taking a few extra precautions:

- **Leave early.** Allow plenty of time to reach your destination, especially when surfaces may be slippery. This applies to driving and walking.
- **Wear proper footwear.** Choose shoes or boots with slip-resistant soles that suit Fall conditions.
- **Keep areas clean and dry.** Wipe up spills right away. Mark or clean up any spots where water, frost, or ice has accumulated.
- **Watch for hazards.** Slow down at corners and take short, steady steps on slick surfaces.
- **Maintain visibility and control.** Don't carry loads that block your view and keep one hand free for handrails.
- **Enter and exit vehicles safely.** Keep at least one hand on a handle or grab bar in case of a slip. Watch for running boards that may be slippery.
- **Be cautious with scaffolds.** Avoid climbing when rungs may be slippery. Inspect carefully and proceed slowly.
- **Clear and lighted pathways.** Keep walkways free of ice and frost and use extra lighting at night.
- **Stay visible after dark.** Wear light-colored clothing and be alert to traffic—drivers may have trouble seeing you.

A few small steps can prevent big accidents. Stay aware, stay steady, and stay safe this Fall.

[Toolbox Talk Submission](#)