

MAKE HOUSEKEEPING EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

OR-OSHA takes housekeeping seriously enough to mandate it under OAR 437-1910.38(b)(3 & 5) and 437-1910.22(a-d), the standards for emergency action plans and fire prevention plans. This is due, in large part, because poor housekeeping can result in all sorts of accidents—from simple cuts, slips and falls to serious injuries. For example:

- Boxes, tools, and debris left in the aisles can cause people to trip and fall. Clutter can block their escape during an emergency evacuation and can also prevent firefighters from accessing a building and attacking a fire.
- Excess wood, boxes, paper, and shredded paper can help fuel a fire.
- Concentrations of certain dusts and powders can ignite and cause an explosion.
- Spilled liquids or chemicals can cause slips, falls, and chemical burns.
- Protruding nails, hooks, and rods can cause serious punctures and cuts.
- Contaminated gloves and sharps that haven't been properly disposed of can spread bloodborne pathogens, such as HIV and hepatitis B.

Good housekeeping is a necessity all year round. When everything is in order, properly cleaned and put in its proper place, that's when you work more efficiently and safely. When housekeeping falls through the cracks, that's when debris, dusts, spills, and other hazards start to accumulate and develop into serious problems often leading to multiple injuries.