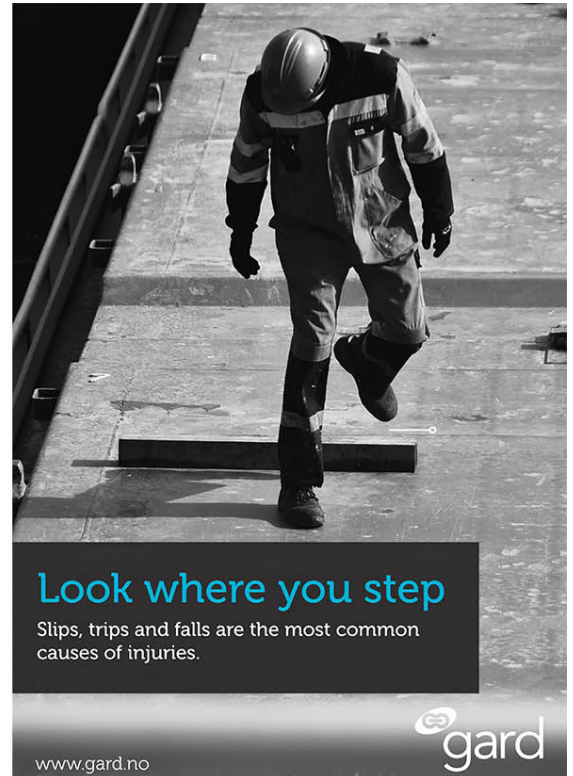


WHAT ARE THE MOST
COMMON CAUSES OF
INJURIES ON SHIPS?

SLIPS, TRIPS
AND FALLS



Keep an eye out for slip, trip and fall hazards onboard

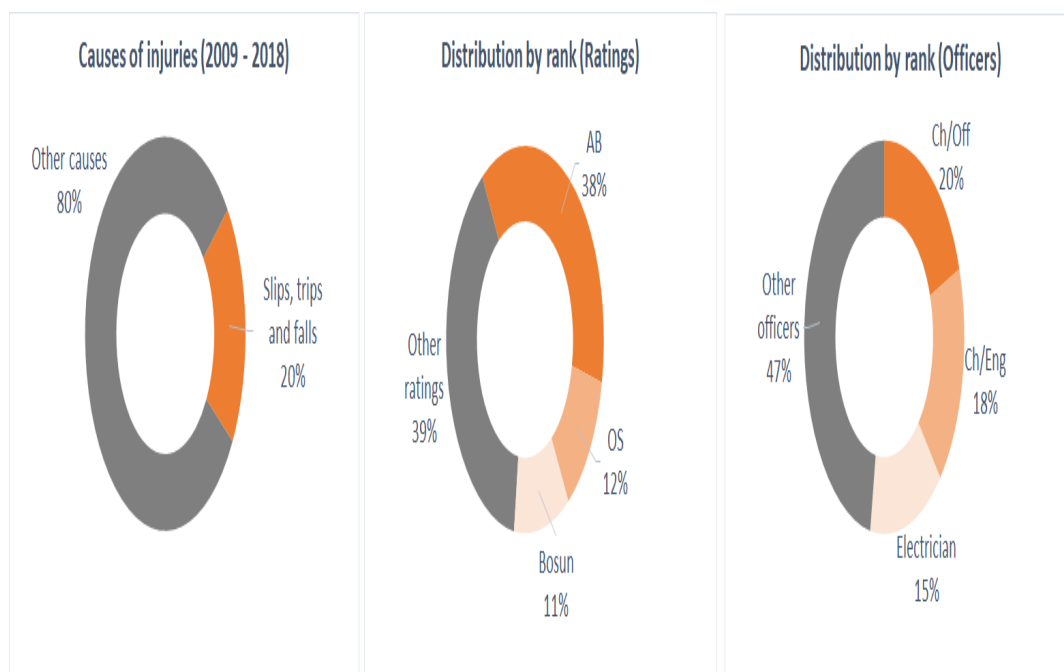
Slips, trips and falls are among the most common causes of injuries on board ships and keeping an eye out for these hazards should be second nature.

Published 11 February 2020

The information provided in this article is intended for general information only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information at the time of publication, no warranty or representation is made regarding its completeness or timeliness. The content in this article does not constitute professional advice, and any reliance on such information is strictly at your own risk. Gard AS, including its affiliated companies, agents and employees, shall not be held liable for any loss, expense, or damage of any kind whatsoever arising from reliance on the information provided, irrespective of whether it is sourced from Gard AS, its shareholders, correspondents, or other contributors.

In the 10 year period 2009 – 2018, slips, trips and falls, commonly referred to as STFs, accounted for 20% of all crew injuries handled by Gard. In their [Annual Overview of Marine Casualties 2019](#), the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) also noted that STFs are the most frequent causes of personal injury.

Are all ranks susceptible to STF related injuries? The answer is yes, although some ranks feature more than others. We see that ratings are 60% more likely to be injured through STFs related causes compared to officers. Amongst ratings, nearly 40% of all STF injuries have been to able bodied seamen (ABs), while among officers, chief officers and chief engineers combined account for 40% of all such injuries. STFs can cause various types of injuries, from a less severe sprain to more serious back injuries and fractures, and sometimes even fatalities.



Preventing STFs

[The Code of Safe Working Practices \(COSWP\)](#) recommends various good practices to reduce the risk of personal injuries as a result of STFs, such as:

- wearing suitable footwear,
- cleaning up all spillages,
- removing all obstructions,
- having anti-slip surfaces,

The information provided in this article is intended for general information only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information at the time of publication, no warranty or representation is made regarding its completeness or timeliness. The content in this article does not constitute professional advice, and any reliance on such information is strictly at your own risk. Gard AS, including its affiliated companies, agents and employees, shall not be held liable for any loss, expense, or damage of any kind whatsoever arising from reliance on the information provided, irrespective of whether it is sourced from Gard AS, its shareholders, correspondents, or other contributors.

- holding handrail when using stairs,
- not standing on unsecured objects, and
- creating a visual workplace such as by using safety signage.

In addition, training our eyes to always look out for STF hazards, such as unguarded openings, loose cables, oil on deck etc. can help in greatly reducing the risk of an injury occurring. Such a common sense approach should become second nature.

Managing STF hazards

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have developed an online course for managing slips, trips and fall hazards. Although it does not talk specifically about the shipboard environment, many of the STF risks are similar across industries. The online course can be accessed [here](#).

More information

Gard Loss Prevention Poster: [gard_poster36_Sliptripsfalls_lores-01.pdf](#)

Gard Insight: [Watch out for open manholes and displaced deck gratings](#)

[EMSA's Annual Overview of Marine Casualties and Incidents 2019](#)

The ILO's Occupational Safety topics: [Slips and trips](#)

The information provided in this article is intended for general information only. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information at the time of publication, no warranty or representation is made regarding its completeness or timeliness. The content in this article does not constitute professional advice, and any reliance on such information is strictly at your own risk. Gard AS, including its affiliated companies, agents and employees, shall not be held liable for any loss, expense, or damage of any kind whatsoever arising from reliance on the information provided, irrespective of whether it is sourced from Gard AS, its shareholders, correspondents, or other contributors.