

To Deans, HoFAs, HOSs, Directors

From Dr Melanie Taylor, Head of Safety Services

Date 1 December 2011

cc Mr W Spinks, Prof N Thakker, Dr D Barker, Mr T Humphreys, School Safety Advisors, Safety Representatives

Reference Safety Circular 4/2011

Slips and trips strategy, 2011

Action: Please note that the University has developed a strategy and action plan to reduce accidents and injuries caused by slips and trips (including those on steps and stairs). Most of the actions are with Estates & Facilities, and Safety Services, but everyone has a part to play and senior managers are asked to encourage all staff and students to

- report accidents *and* near misses
- act upon observations of defects, spillages, obstructions and other potential causes of slips or trips – before someone is injured.

At the request of the Board of Governors, Safety Services and Estates & Facilities have been working together on a slips and trips strategy and action plan to try to reduce the numbers of such accidents on campus and in our buildings. Both were approved by Health & Safety Committee on 14 October 2011, and are now available to view on our webpages, together with a statistical annex and some general guidance, all at <http://www.campus.manchester.ac.uk/healthandsafety/CoPs&Guidance.htm#S>.

We will report back to the University's Health & Safety Committee as actions are completed. We are also looking at safety campaigns run by other organisations to see if we can suggest additional measures to influence our behaviours and attitudes. This type of accident is often used as a source of entertainment, but the impact on individuals who suffer injury is certainly not a laughing matter.

As always, prevention is better than cure, and one of the most positive things anyone can do is to be observant and report things that can cause others to slip or trip, either using the Estates & Facilities helpdesk (details at <http://www.estates.manchester.ac.uk/BusinessUnits/Helpdesk/index.html>) or to safety personnel in your area, or to the safety office.

Dr Melanie Taylor
Head of Safety Services