

# Slip and Fall Prevention During Boat Shows



Chubb Marine Facilities loss control specialists are pleased to share with you some basics for achieving a safer Boat Show environment. Boat Shows are important events to meet potential and existing customers, showcase inventory, and make sales. However, trip and fall incidents put the dealership at risk of not only alienating a current or future customer, but also in creating serious liability arising out of negligence. The checkpoints below may help you identify and reduce the likelihood of an incident that could impact your income and damage your reputation.

To learn more about Chubb Marine Facilities insurance products and resources for Boat Dealers and Marinas, please contact [MarineFacilitiesInfo@chubb.com](mailto:MarineFacilitiesInfo@chubb.com).

## Show Preparation

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### Minimizing Trip Hazards

- Walkways should be well maintained, dry, clean, and unobstructed.
- Walkways should be well-defined and of the same material for the entire length where possible.
- Mats and rugs should lay flat. Secure or tape down any edges that curl or stick upwards. Repair or replace any that are worn, torn, or wrinkled. Reposition rugs and mats often, as they tend to shift.
- Transitions between elevations or surface materials should be even and well defined. Use conspicuous colors to alert pedestrians to any significant change in the walkway or surface.
- Lines, hoses, wires, etc. should be run under or around walkways when possible. If necessary to cross a walkway, secure the item with tape or a

mat for the entire crosswalk width and conspicuously mark it.

### Minimizing Fall Hazards

- Any handrail should be stout, free of defects, and well secured.
- Ladder rungs and stair treads should be fitted with non-skid coating, covering, or traction strips. Repair defects promptly.
- Stairs must be fitted with graspable hand rails within arm's reach from any point.
- All vessel decks, stairs, and ladders (interior and exterior) should be fitted with a non-skid coating or covering.
- The working edge of viewing/boarding platforms should be fitted with contrasting marks. Sheer platform ends should be fitted with a railing.
- Chains or lines should be installed at any gap between railings wide enough for a person to fall through.
- Use high quality lighting for good visibility during darkness AND dim light conditions.

### In Water Show Concerns

- Inspect docks for protruding fasteners, damaged boards, and loose boards. Repair or replace as necessary.
- Gangways must be in good condition, well supported, and secured at one end.
- Where a large gap or elevation change exists, a transition ramp should be used to bridge between the gangway and the shore/dock.
- Ladders or other means of retrieving a person overboard should be available at intervals about the facility.
- Removable deck plates, such as in the engine room, should be secured in place by positive means and deck hatches must not remain open.
- Approved life rings should be installed at intervals around the marine facility.

## **Safety During the Show**

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### **Minimizing Your Risk**

- It may be necessary to station an employee at the slip, trip, or fall hazard area to assist guests and alert them to watch their step.
- Users should always face the ladder when ascending or descending.
- Warn guests of raised thresholds by marking them with high visibility contrasting color schemes and signage at eye level.
- Proper footwear should be required of all employees/vendors and encouraged for guests. Be aware that high heels increase the risk of a slip, trip, or fall.
- Make frequent walk-through inspections and correct any deficiencies.
- An employee or crew member should be positioned at each end of any ramp or gangway to offer assistance and remind guests to watch their step.
- Any passenger who requires assistance or appears to be limited in mobility should be assisted by an employee or crew member.

- Reasonable means of safely boarding/ disembarking the vessel should be made available, such as a properly sized gangway with railings.
- Do not permit persons to jump from dock to boat or vice versa.
  - If alcoholic beverages are available at the event, employees should be trained to recognize and effectively manage intoxicated patrons per company policy. Develop a written impaired person policy!

### **Contact Us**

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