

## Newsflash - 2018 01

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Every employee and contractor, working for Northern Powergrid, should go home at the end of each shift uninjured and in good health after a productive days work

## Slip Trip & Falls

One year ago one of our colleagues suffered a very serious accident when he slipped on black ice and suffered an extremely painful and traumatic injury. His fall resulted in a complicated leg fracture and he remains off work one year later. We continue to keep in regular contact and provide support but this incident reminds us that even the most innocuous of incidents has the potential to result in terrible outcomes for our employees and their families.

**Tyne & Wear Zone Manager, Peter Taylor commented** - *"This has been a difficult and traumatic time for all involved either directly or indirectly. Clearly our thoughts remain with the individual concerned and we continue to support him through his recovery. The absence of such a valued and experienced engineer has been felt by friends and colleagues around the zone. Fault volumes were up on 2016 levels and it has been a struggle to balance off system risk whilst keeping work in progress at acceptable levels. Hopefully we'll see him return to Field Operations in some capacity sometime in the future and until that time I would like to register my thanks for the ongoing support we've received throughout the last 12-months."*

We still have weeks of our winter weather to endure. So, it is vital we are properly prepared and mentally and physically equipped to deal with anything any adverse weather has to throw at us. Changing weather conditions can impact on the potential for slip, trip and fall incidents. Snow and frost are obvious visible hazards whereas black ice can be difficult to spot. A slip and fall can happen in a split second and once gravity takes over the consequences are down to circumstances and luck. In many instances you can pick yourself up and dust yourself down and only suffer minor bruising and a bit of embarrassment. In more unfortunate cases sprains and fractures can result and these can take months to recover from.



The incident demonstrates that the impact of slips, trips and falls can never be underestimated. A slip occurs in an instant and can happen at any time, even on short duration tasks, so we need to be on our guard 100% of the time.



Spikey Plus under soles.

Given the short duration of the task involved and the short distance to cover not many staff would have considered putting on their Spikey Plus. It is hindsight as far as this incident is concerned but we would ask that you remember its consequences and take a different view on whether it is worth the time trouble and effort to take that extra precaution when faced with a similar situation.

**Keep you Spikey Plus handy. They won't help you if you don't use them.**

**Please use the knowledge of this incident to influence your ongoing risk assessment as you carry out your daily duties, particularly in poor weather conditions.**