IMA-NA CASE STUDY #8
CARBO Turns the Tables on a Persistent Slip Hazard

• A serious slip and fall incident that occurred in September 2008 at a CARBO manufacturing facility was created by the presence of finished product on a smooth concrete floor.

• The finished product, ceramic proppant, creates an extremely slippery walking surface when allowed to accumulate in even limited quantities. Ceramic proppant pellets are small, round and extremely hard. When they are walked on, they react like ball bearings.

• In response, the site safety committee decided to modify the smooth surface of the concrete floor to improve foot traction between clean ups.

• A contractor was brought in to grind grooves into the concrete floors in all areas affected with loose finished product. The grooves provide a space for the product to settle below the floor’s top surface and provide improved footing.

• All other CARBO proppant manufacturing plants now have utilized the grooving technique in all areas where spills of finished proppant can occur.

• Since the initial incident, there have been zero slip and fall injuries attributed to loss of footing due to the presence of loose finished proppant.