

Take 5 But Watch Out!

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We were deployed and having scheduled training—we typically do this and have other briefings on no-fly days, which this day was. I had been sitting for a while and was a bit restless.

Finally, the session concluded, and our ops officer announced we would take a five-minute break to stretch and to refill our coffee cups. I hurried from the ready room and down a nearby ladder, determined to make the most of my break.

My haste almost cost me dearly. As I opened a door and hurried down a passageway, I didn't notice signs warning the deck was wet, probably because they weren't posted at the passageway's entrance where the wet deck began. Instead, the signs were placed halfway down the passageway.

As I stepped onto the wet deck, my feet quickly went out from under me, and I started to fall. Halfway down, I managed to break the fall and softened my "landing." I physically was OK—fortunately, only my pride had been hurt. The fall could have been much worse. I shudder to think that a careless act of rushing down a wet pas-

sageway could have jeopardized my flight status. Had I slowed down, and had the wet-deck caution signs been properly located, my fall would have been prevented.

Slow down when you travel throughout the ship and get where you're going in one piece—allow sufficient time to reach your destination. Also hold onto handrails—with both hands—when going up or down ladders and stairs. ☹

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