

Don't walk backwards on the ramp! T-tails are high up, and wings of large jets are usually high above eye level. As we look upward, it's easy to step backward for a better look... or to walk backwards as we walk around the aircraft. This is exactly where backwards-walking tripping injuries occur.



Common tripping hazards include uneven concrete, conditioned air hoses, and GPU cables. It doesn't help that many potable water hoses are tan/gray – the same color as the concrete they're laying on, and they camouflage right in. As we trip while walking backwards, our arms in front are unable to break our fall. That means we land on our tush, and often our head hits the ground hard. Backwards-walking tripping can result in serious back, neck, and head injuries.

Just look at all these tripping hazards.



Resolve to never walk backwards on the ramp. If you need to look up, stop, turn, walk forward to a new location, and then turn to look at what you need to assess. Develop the habit of only walking forward, eyes watching where you're going, without distraction. The one time you trip and fall backwards, you'll wish you hadn't done it. Aircraft ramps are hazardous places, and the physical wellbeing of your staff is critical. One last note on ramp safety: if you're using a handheld device, stop using it while walking.

HangarStack is online software that helps you plan your next hangar or manage hangar stacking operations, including ramp and runway operations.

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