



Fall Protection

eSafetyLine

Floor Openings

Floor openings are very common occurrences at most jobsites. Unprotected holes in the floor, deck or roof are responsible for many very serious injuries. But these injuries aren't necessary. Through planning and attention these kinds of injuries are easy to prevent.

Some helpful starting points include:

- If you make a hole, guard it. Before a hole is even cut, barricade the area to keep people out of the area.
- If a hole needs to remain open, permanent barriers should be installed around the perimeter. Like other railings at a jobsite, these should be at least 42" high, have a mid-rail and be able to withstand a 200 pound load. Toe boards are recommended and required if an employee will be working under the hole.
- If not guarded, a hole **MUST** be covered. The cover must:
 - Be able to support at least 200 pounds
 - Be larger than the opening
 - Secured so the cover won't move or be able to be lifted
 - Labeled "Floor Opening, Do Not Remove"
 - If possible make a round opening and cover. An oversized round cover isn't able to fall through a smaller round hole.
- Holes should **NEVER** be covered with non-sturdy materials like paper, cardboard or plastic. Obviously, none of these will be able to support 200 pounds.

- Always be very careful when walking over protective paper or plastic, there may be a hole underneath. Step carefully and if a hole exists, expose it immediately so others can see it, barricade it and notify your supervisor.
- Never stand or sit on a skylight- they aren't meant to support a person's weight. They will break and you WILL fall.
- When installing a skylight, protect the opening until the installation is complete.

The danger of these types of fall is very real. The way to control the danger is simple, so simple that there is not reason for it ever to exist.

Discussion Questions

What should you do if you find an unexpected hole?

What characteristics does a cover need?

MEETING / TRAINING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

COMPANY: _____

_____ SAFETY MEETING

JOB/DEPT: _____

_____ SAFETY TRAINING

DATE: ___/___/___

TIME: _____

TOPICS ADDRESSED: _____

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: _____

ACTION TAKEN: _____

Supervisor's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

Safety Coordinator's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date