Prevent Falls through Holes

Holes are made in roofs and floors as buildings go up and are torn down. Workers can be injured or killed if they fall through the holes.

John and Ken's Story

John was in the process of removing a damaged plywood sheet when Ken, his foreman, asked him to get some supplies. Before John left to get them, he laid the damaged plywood on the floor, and it happened to cover a hole. Later, Ken came along and picked up the plywood sheet to take it to a disposal chute. Not seeing the hole, he stepped into it and fell to the concrete floor below. He suffered severe injuries to his legs and back.

- � What caused this incident?
- ✗ How could this have been prevented?
- ✗ Have you ever fallen through a roof or floor hole, or do you know someone who has? If so, what happened?

Remember This

- Guard or cover all holes you create, uncover, or notice before you leave any work area. This will protect other workers, who might not notice the hole.

- Label **all** covers with the word "**HOLE**" or "**COVER**" to warn of the hazard.

- Keep an eye out for your co-workers. If a hole is uncovered, take action to cover it, **even if you did not create or uncover it!**

- Use at least 3/4" plywood, oriented strand board, or other materials to cover the hole, and secure with nails or screws so it cannot move. If a worker steps on an unsecured cover, it can shift and the worker can fall through the hole and be injured.

- Make sure covers can support at least two times the weight of workers, equipment, and materials. If a hole is larger than plywood, then use guardrails. (OSHA requires that covers be of standard strength and construction.)

How can we stay safe today?

What will we do at the worksite to prevent falls through holes?

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OSHA Standards: 1926.501 and 1926.502

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HOLE

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