

SAFETY TOOL BOX MEETING

NO. 24 - OPENINGS AND EDGES

Every year in our industry hundreds of people are killed or injured when they fall from an unprotected area or are struck by materials or tools falling from above.

Over half of all accidents (1,400) reported are of these two types. Falls of persons and falls of materials.

The LAW requires that if you work where it is possible for you to fall 2 metres or more, then protection must be provided.

The following list gives an idea of the required protection:-

1. Scaffolds

Guardrails, toe-boards and brick guards as assessed must be provided to all working levels, also secured ladders are required

2. Floors

Protection must be provided to all floor edges, holes, openings, stairways and duct openings. Record of Weekly Inspection of Temporary Covers will be completed for all covers. If you require the covers to be removed, make sure you get permission from AL KHODARI, and an agreed method of work is in place.

3. Roofs

Edge protection must be in position at all edges around the perimeter of the roof.

If the roof is of a fragile material, crawling boards or ladders must be used. Where openings or fragile skylights occur in the roof, these must be guarded or securely covered also. See Toolbox Talk 25 for further detail.

4. Excavations

All excavations require warning barriers or guardrails. Where the sides are sloping, barriers may be sufficient but if sides are vertical than more than adequate guarding is needed. See Toolbox Talk 27 for further detail.

5. Working Alongside Water

Guardrails and lifebelts are required where work is carried out alongside rivers, docks, etc. the provision of life jackets, buoyancy aids, rescue boats etc may be required as assessed.

I have given the above talk to all men under my control.

Signed:

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Date 24-01-07

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6. Manholes, Road gullies etc.

Strong secured covers are required here as vehicles damage covers and leave traps. At time protection will need to be moved to allow work to progress but this must be done in a controlled manner so that protection is re-fixed once the work is done.

Several serious accidents have occurred on contracts where covers have been removed from openings in floors or guarding has been removed from service ducts etc

If you remove protection under instruction make sure it is replaced.

Where edge protection is not practical, your method of work must be agreed with Al Khodari Safety Department.

IF YOU ARE WORKING ALONGSIDE AN UNGUARDED EDGE OR OPENING TELL YOUR FOREMAN NOW

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Signed:

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