



SAFETY SHARE OF THE MONTH

Dangers of Open Holes

MSHA, and the State Mine Inspector's Office both have standards regarding open holes being covered or guarded to prevent a miner from falling. In the past few years, several miners have been seriously hurt or killed in falls through open holes that were not adequately covered or guarded.

ASMI R11-1-724 Tops of manways and open holes covered.

- Tops of manways and open holes shall be adequately covered or guarded

MSHA 30 CFR §56/57.11012 Protection for openings around travelways:

- Openings above, below, or near travelways through which persons or materials may fall shall be protected by railings, barriers, or covers. Where it is impractical to install such protective devices, adequate warning signals shall be installed.

These standards require that railings, barriers, or covers be installed on openings located above, below, or near travelways where persons or materials may fall. If installation of these devices is impractical, adequate warning signals shall be installed. Holes that present a potential safety hazard can be found inside of buildings, in shops or warehouses, on work platforms, on roofs, on roadway/bridge construction, and in other outdoor working environments.

When a hole is not in use, always ensure it is protected by a cover or a guardrail system that is added along all unprotected sides of the hole. Floor holes or openings must be protected to prevent miners from tripping and/or falling into them. The floor hole cover should be strong and durable enough to withstand at least twice the weight of employees, equipment and materials that may be imposed on the cover at any time. If protective covers are not installed or available for floor holes noticed on the job site, immediately notify appropriate personnel to address the hazard. Skylights must have fall arrest systems, guardrails or covers to prevent falls to lower levels. Do not work near skylights unless adequate fall protection is in place.



KEEP EYES ON PATH & BE SAFE!!!

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