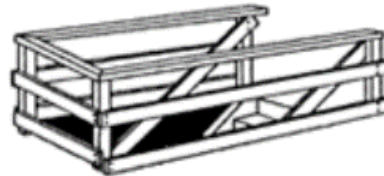


INTRODUCTION

Without proper guarding, workers face exposure to falls when working around floor openings. It may seem like common sense to avoid such hazards, but in a moment of distraction around an uncovered opening can lead to disaster.

CONTROLS

- Guard rails
- Rigid covering



Guardrail installed around all sides of stairway opening except at the entrance.

COVERING REQUIREMENTS

- Completely cover the opening
- Securely fasten the covering to ensure no one tries to move it
- Construct the covering with material that can support any load that may be encountered on the worksite
- Clearly mark/label all coverings with the appropriate warning labels

NOTES:

Always fasten the cover securely to prevent workers from removing it and falling through the opening. Where permanent covers or hatches are installed, they should be kept closed at all times except when they are being used for access.

