



Protection of Floor Openings

October 6, 2015

Our Mosaic Phosphates Walking/Working Surfaces Program provides specific guidance for protecting floor openings and risks associated with fall hazards.

Some key points of clarification from the program:

- **All openings into which a person can fall, walk or step (larger than 12" x 12" and greater than 4' deep) shall be protected by a guardrail system or cover that completely protects the opening.**
 - The use of a designated attendant is acceptable only temporarily while installation of guardrails or floor hole covers is in progress, or while items are being removed and immediately replaced.
 - When a designated attendant is used, the opening must also be clearly marked and surrounded with temporary barricades (red tape, saw horses, etc.) prior to creating the opening.
 - Attendants must be instructed on their responsibilities, have clear view of the entire area and have no other duties except to prevent personnel from entering the barricaded area.
- When creating, covering or working near an opening – all personnel in the immediate area must be secured with proper fall protection prior to the start of the job.



*Pictures of Properly Protected Openings.
Refer to the Phosphates Walking/Working Surfaces Program for detailed requirements.*