

20 Fall through floor opening – Inspection #1164863

A **59 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he stepped into a floor hole falling 15 feet 4 inches to the level below. On the day of the incident, the victim was working on the main floor of a newly constructed building framing windows. The victim moved some material to clear a space for a mobile scaffold, and in doing so he unknowingly lifted a piece of plywood that was covering a floor hole. The lead carpenter told the victim to put the board down, but the victim stepped forward falling into the 16 inch wide by 39 inch long floor hole striking his head on the concrete floor below. During the investigation it was determined that the cover was not marked, “HOLE” or “COVER”, to warn employees that a floor hole was underneath, and the cover was not anchored down to the floor.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

Citation 1 Item 1

29 CFR 1926.502(i)(3)	All covers were not secured when installed so as to prevent accidental displacement by the wind, equipment, or employees. In that a hole cover located on the main level of the building was not secured to prevent it from being accidentally displaced. An employee was able to move the cover and fall through the hole 15 feet to the basement level below.
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Citation 1 Item 2

29 CFR 1926.502(i)(4)	All covers were not color coded or marked with the work “HOLE” or “COVER” to provide warning of the hazard. In that the cover for a hole located on the main floor was not color coded or marked with the work “HOLE” or “COVER”. An employee moved the cover and fell through the hole 15 feet to the basement level.
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Photo 1 of 2 – The red circle indicates where the floor opening was located near the windows.

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Photo 2 of 2 – The red circle indicates where the victim fell through the floor opening cover into the basement below.