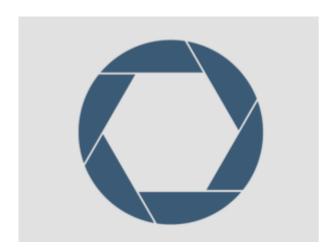
## Is This a Safe Way to Guard a Floor Opening?



What is wrong with this picture?



The railing arrangement in this photo is in some ways more dangerous than the floor hole it's guarding:

- There's no intermediate railing; and
- The post ends jutting out from over the top railing are uncapped and could cause serious damage if workers stumble into them.

**Moral:** Make sure your floor hole guarding arrangements meet OSHA standards and don't expose workers to additional hazards.

## FLOOR HOLES & FALLS: 3 Reasons to Pay Attention

- 1. Falls are the leading cause of workplace accidents
- 2. 15% of all workplace *deaths* are the from falls (the second leading cause of fatalities trailing only motor vehicle crashes
- 3. Many of these fall accidents and deaths are the result of stepping into floor holes like the one in the picture

## MAKE SURE FLOOR HOLES ARE PROPERLY GUARDED

OSHA (Sec. 1910.23(a)(8)) says that floor openings must be guarded by **EITHER**:

1. A Floor Hole Cover of standard strength and construction;



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2. A Standard Railing and Toeboard on all exposed sides.



## MAKE SURE RAILINGS ARE SAFE

According to OSHA (Sec. 1910.23(e)(1)), there are 5 things a railing must have to be considered "standard railing":

- 1. A top rail that's smooth-surfaced throughout the length of the railing;
- 2. An intermediate rail that's located about halfway between the top rail and floor/platform/runway/ramp;
- 3. Posts;
- 4. At least 42 inches in height measured from the upper surface of the top rail to the floor/platform/runway/ramp;
- 5. Ends of rails that don't overhang the terminal posts (unless the overhang doesn't constitute a projection hazard).

The railing in this photo is clearly not up to "standard."