

Operational Alert's inform Signal Mutual Members of serious incidents within the Mutual which resulted in permanent disability, death or a significant near miss. If you have similar operations, please share this Operational Alert with operation managers, supervisors, equipment operators, and all affected employees. It is imperative that management, at all levels review their operations for similar hazardous conditions, or acts and their controls.

Hatches Closed, Eyes Open

INCIDENT: Employee Fell Into Open Deck Hatch

SUMMARY

Working around open hatches or unguarded edges is a SERIOUS workplace hazard that must be addressed to avoid injuries that adversely affect the employee, their family, your operations, and company reputation. Across the mutual during the current Member Year, there have been 300+ Slip/Trip/Fall related claims costing over \$8 MM to Members.

Description

- Hatches incorrectly secured with improvised connections.
- Hatches left open
- Hatches missing pins
- Hatch pins and fold down removed and not replaced
- Manholes left unguarded
- Missing stanchions
- Guard rails missing or inadequate

Causes

- Poor or no formal inspections prior to employees starting work shift
- Inattention to surroundings before entering or while in the work area
- Failure to replace/repair hatches or other fall arrest systems

Solutions

- Management inspection of jobsite and a completed inspection form is critical to identify and correct hazards prior to employees starting work
- Assure pins are in place on railing and hatch lids before climbing, accessing, and egressing area



Whenever uncertainty, confusion, doubt exists, use: **S.T.A.R** (Stop-Think-Act-Review)

Remind employees that you expect them to raise concerns and refuse the task until it can be accomplished safely.

Remember, the next person harmed could be you or someone's **Mother, Father, Daughter or Son.**

DISCLAIMER: The contents of this document are intended only for the informational use of the addressee. The information contained herein is not intended as, nor does it constitute, specific legal or technical advice to the reader. Any information or recommendations contained herein are provided to the addressee for usage at their own discretion. Neither Signal Mutual Indemnity Association Ltd., its Members, Managers or Signal Administration, Inc. and/or their employees accept liability whether in tort, negligence, contract, or otherwise, to anyone for any lack of technical skill, completeness of recommendations, or analysis of issues associated with the discussion of topics set forth herein. No responsibility is assumed for the discovery or elimination of unsafe conditions. Compliance with any recommendations herein should not assume your compliance with any federal, state, or local law or regulation. Additionally, the information contained herein does not constitute and shall not be construed to reflect the adoption of any coverage position by Signal Mutual Indemnity Association Ltd., its Members, Managers or Signal Administration, Inc. and/or their employees.