



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

## INCIDENT: TRIPS RESULT IN LOST TIME INJURIES

### SUMMARY OF RECENT INCIDENT

#### Incident 1:

While rolling up poly ventilation tubing (lay-flat), a worker was walking backward and tripped on a 2"x4" that had been left on the pier. The worker landed on his back resulting in a fractured vertebra.



#### Incident 2:

While walking to the dock, a worker deviated from the normal pedestrian path and cut through an open and unmowed grassy area. While crossing, they stepped into an obscured hole resulting in a fractured ankle.

### CONSIDERATIONS

- Every year, trips are among the leading causes of lost time injuries across the industry. In the past 12 months, over 560 slip/trip/fall incidents have impacted workers across the Mutual, resulting in pain and suffering to the employees, and over \$15 Million in claim costs.
- Relatively minor hazards such as a single 2"x4" or uneven ground can result in serious injuries when not treated with the same level of care as more severe hazards such as confined space entry or crane lifts.
- Actively look for hazards in your work area and take action to correct issues before you or a coworker are injured.
- Good housekeeping in designated aisleways is a great practice helping to reduce the risk of slip/trip/fall incidents, additionally reducing the risk of fires.
- Avoid distractions like cell phone use or reading paperwork while you are walking. If you need to do these activities, STOP walking while you do so.
- If you have ideas, suggestions, or concerns about the walking and working surfaces in your operational areas, please speak up and notify your supervisor or your safety team.



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