

FALL PREVENTION SYSTEMS LESSON LEARNED: ARTISAN CONTRACTOR



One of the best ways to improve safety culture is to learn from the gaps and opportunities in other programs. Check out the scenario below, and see if your risk management efforts can be improved to avoid a similar incident.

THE INCIDENT



WORKER PROFILE

An experienced artisan contractor working in a building structure



SOURCE AND TYPE OF INJURY

The contractor fell through an unprotected floor opening, resulting in severe injuries to multiple parts of the body

MORE DETAILS



- ▶ Claims from these instances allege that previous contract workers removed the fall prevention system, leaving the floor opening exposed, before the injured contractor began work. The failure to replace the barriers is noted to have been significant in contributing to the fall.
- ▶ Despite being the second contractor to operate on the jobsite, the injured contractor is considered an exposing employer — meaning his company has an obligation to ensure the floor openings are protected before having workers in the area. They could either protect the opening themselves, or contact the previous contract workers to replace the fall prevention system.
- ▶ The original group of contractors is considered a creating employer, and had the obligation to correct the removed fall prevention system before leaving the jobsite.

LESSON LEARNED

All contractors involved should have followed the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's guidelines for multi-employer jobsites. If they had followed proper protocol, the hazard would have been abated prior to working on the site. All employers would have documentation that the proper protection was in place while they were working, and following the completion of their work.

KNOW HOW TO REPORT

If an injury or loss should occur, it's imperative that employers know how to report it appropriately. Check out our [infographic](#) with key tips for OSHA 300 reporting.

For additional safety information, check out our other [resources](#).

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