

# OHBA Safety Pages: Floor & Roof Openings

Falls from elevation are one of the leading causes of injuries to construction workers. Floor and roof openings through which workers could fall must be securely covered or be surrounded by standard guardrails.

## Covers for holes

Simple and effective when they're properly installed, rigid covers prevent workers from falling through skylights or temporary openings and holes in walking/working surfaces. Covers must:

- Support at least twice the maximum expected weight of workers, equipment, and materials. Skylights are not considered covers unless they meet this strength requirement
- Be secured so they won't be displaced accidentally
- Have full-edge bearing on all four sides
- Be painted with a distinctive color or marked with the word HOLE or COVER



**Standard guardrails** Standard guardrails are barriers, usually made from posts and wire or boards that keep people away from fall hazards such as wells, pits, shafts, wall openings, etc. Guardrails must be built to withstand a significant amount of force. The top rail must be able to withstand 200 pounds of force when it is applied in an outward or downward direction without failure. A mid-rail must be able to withstand 150 pounds of force applied in the same manner. The top-rail must be 42" in height, plus or minus 3". The mid-rail would be half the distance from the top-rail.



The information we provide is not intended to include all possible safety measures and controls. In addition, the safety information we provide does not relieve the Members of its own duties and obligations with regard to safety concerns, nor does Oregon Home Builders Association guarantee to the Members or others that the Member's property, job sites and/or operations are safe, healthful, or in compliance with applicable laws, regulations or standards. The Members remain responsible for their own operations, safety practices and procedures and should consult with legal counsel as they deem appropriate.

SAFETY PAGE MEETING GUIDE

Topic: Floor & Roof Openings

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Shift: \_\_\_\_\_

Number in crew: \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Safety or Health issues discussed. Include recent accident investigations and hazards involving tools, equipment, the work environment, work practices and any Safety or Health recommendations:

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Follow up on recommendations from last safety meeting:

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Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
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9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		

Supervisor's remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature)