



# Preventing Falls through Holes

*Holes are made in roofs and floors as buildings go up and are torn down. Workers can be injured or killed if they fall through the holes.*

## John and Phillip's Story

John was in the process of removing a damaged plywood sheet when Phillip, another worker, requested some supplies. Before John left to get them, he laid the damaged plywood on the floor, and it happened to cover a hole. Later, Phillip came along and picked up the plywood sheet to take it to a disposal chute. Not seeing the hole, he stepped into it and fell about 25 feet to the concrete floor below. He suffered severe injuries to his legs and back.

- ✘ **Have you recently worked around a hole in a roof or floor?**
- ✘ **Was the opening covered or protected with guardrails?**
- ✘ **Have you known anyone who was injured falling through a roof or floor hole? If so, what happened?**

## Remember This

- If you create, uncover, or see a hole, guard or cover it before you leave the work area. Other workers might not notice an uncovered hole and could fall through.
- Label all covers with the word "**HOLE**" or "**COVER**" to warn of the hazard.
- Keep an eye out for your co-workers. If a hole is uncovered, take action to cover it, **even if you did not create or uncover it!**
- Make sure covers can support at least two times the weight of workers, equipment, and materials. If a hole is larger than plywood, then guardrails should be used. (OSHA requires that covers be of standard strength and construction.)
- Fasten all covers with screws or nails so they do not move. If a worker steps on an unsecured cover, it can shift and the worker can fall through the hole and be injured.

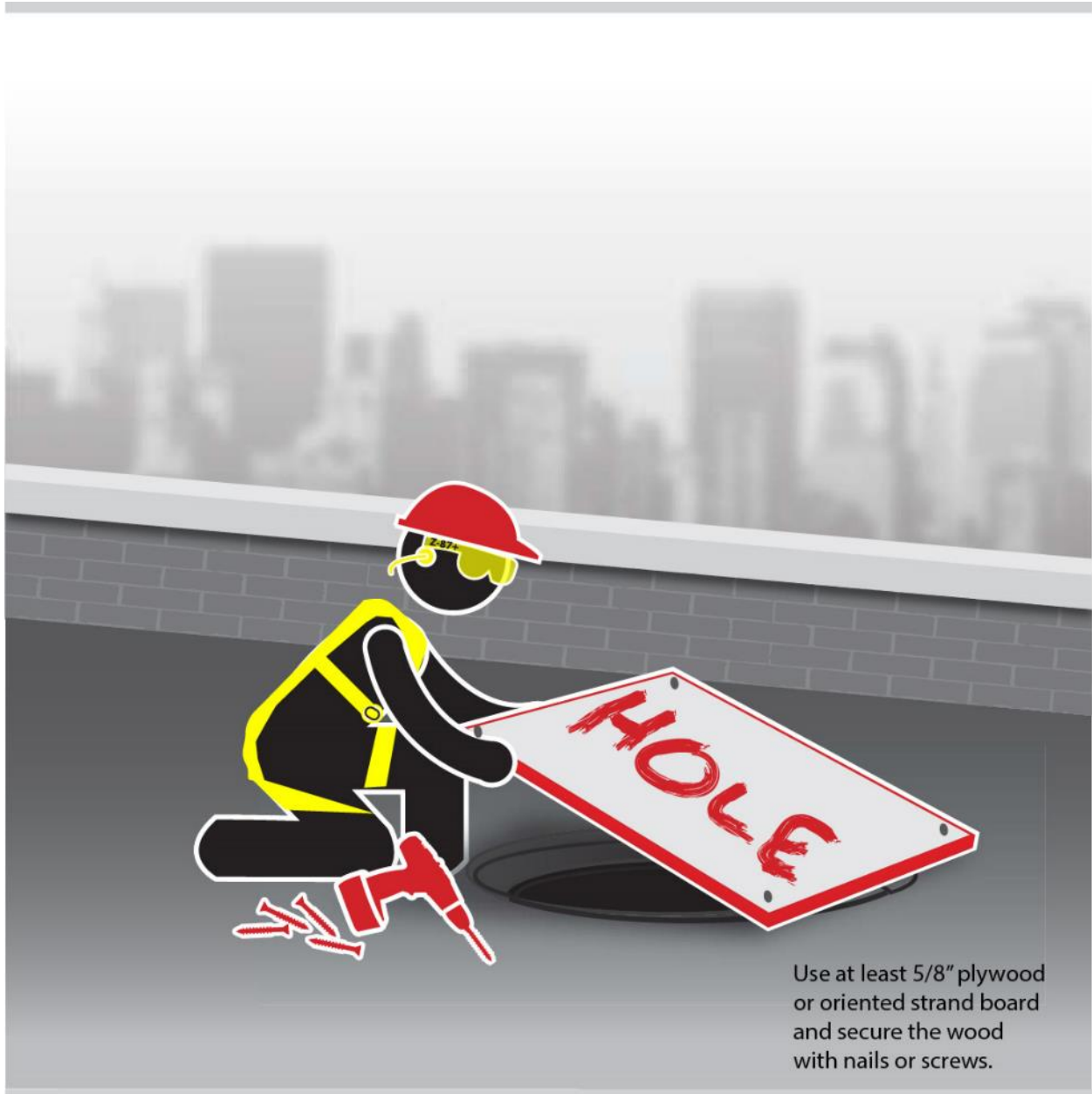
## How can we stay safe today?

What will we do at the worksite to prevent falls through holes?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

OSHA REGULATION: 1926.501 and 502

# Preventing Falls through Holes



Use at least 5/8" plywood or oriented strand board and secure the wood with nails or screws.

- ✘ Guard or cover all holes you have created, uncovered, or noticed before you leave the work area.
- ✘ Label all covers with the word "**HOLE**" or "**COVER**" to warn of the hazard.
- ✘ Keep an eye out for your co-workers. If a hole is uncovered, take action to cover it, **even if you did not create or uncover it!**