

Medical treatment: Person fell down unprotected hatch

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The MSF has published safety alert number 16-17 regarding an incident in which a shore-side foreman walked into the “safe haven” area of a supply vessel and stepped into an open manhole.

What happened?

Whilst he managed to catch himself and prevent a free fall of 5m into the tank, he nonetheless suffered a laceration on his shin requiring 3 stitches and bruising to the forearm.



The MSF noted the following causes:

- Lack of barriers to open manholes.
- Several different activities all occurring at once.
- Lack of coordination of those simultaneous activities.

The following corrective actions were taken:

- Covering of manholes with gratings during work.
- Ensuring that ongoing work is coordinated between the work parties in the same area, through toolbox talks.

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