



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 01-01

## HOLES IN DECKS OR WALKWAYS

### WHAT HAPPENED:

A crewman was walking on the derrick walk-around and stepped through a hole in the grating. The employee injured his knee in this incident.

### WHAT CAUSED IT:

The investigation revealed that at some time in the past there was an old standpipe that had been removed from service. When the standpipe was removed, the hole was not repaired. A bug blower had covered the hole until recently when it was removed from the derrick walk around. This exposed the hole in the grating and created a hazard..

### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

- Never leave holes in grating or decks without covering them or erecting a safety barrier.
- If holes in grating or decks are not to be used again, permanent repairs should be made as soon as feasible. The safety barrier is to remain in place until the repairs are made.
- If a hole is made in the deck or grating for use at a later time, it should be covered immediately with a cover that cannot be displaced and / or a safety barrier blocking off the opening.
- Rig inspections should be carried out to determine if similar situations exist and all open holes repaired, covered with a secure cover, or barricaded off.
- Temporary barriers for openings large enough for a person to fall through or off of, should be built with equivalent strength to the handrail protection that is required for permanent landings.

Additional references are: IADC's Accident Prevention Guide Sections 3.10 & 3.11 and IADC / PETEX Guide to Safe Stairways, Walkways and Railings.

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**The Corrective Actions stated in this alert are one company's attempts to address the incident, and do not necessarily reflect the position of IADC or the IADC HSE Committee.**

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