

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this best practice is to establish hole cover requirements for pile driving activities. By adhering to OSHA standards and industry best practices, this best practice aims to ensure the safety of personnel and prevent potential accidents related to open holes on our project sites.

PROCESS:

- **Hole Covering Plan:** During the preconstruction phase, site management shall develop a hole cover plan that outlines hole cover selection, installation, and maintenance. The plan should be tailored to specific project requirements and hole types. This plan should include considerations for hole depth, location, and the proximity of workers or equipment. This plan must be approved by the Senior Construction Manager and the Manager of Safety.
- **OSHA Compliance:** The site plan should ensure that all hole covers meet the standards set forth by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) –
[1926.501\(b\)\(4\)\(ii\)](#)- *Each employee on a walking/working surface shall be protected from tripping in or stepping into or through holes by covers.*
[1926.502\(i\)\(2\)](#)
*All other covers shall be capable of supporting, without failure, **at least twice the weight** of employees, equipment, and materials that may be imposed on the cover at any one time.*
[1926.502\(i\)\(3\)](#)
All covers shall be secured when installed so as to prevent accidental displacement by the wind, equipment, or employees.
[1926.502\(i\)\(4\)](#)
All covers shall be color coded or they shall be marked with the word "HOLE" or "COVER" to provide warning of the hazard.
- **Installation Procedures:** Review with all personnel the proper hole cover installation procedure, emphasizing the importance of secure and stable placement. Implement guidelines for checking and maintaining covers throughout the duration of the project.

PAYOFF:

Implementing this best practice for hole cover requirements, will help to achieve the following:

Personnel Safety: Reduced risk of falls and accidents due to uncovered holes, leading to a safer work environment and improved worker well-being.

Accident Prevention: Minimized potential for on-site accidents related to uncovered holes, preventing project delays and disruptions.

Efficient Operations: Improved project efficiency and productivity as personnel can work around covered holes without unnecessary interruptions or safety concerns.



Example 1: Labeled Hole Cover
48"x48" 3/4" plywood secured with 12" anchor spikes and washers.



Example 2: Labeled Hole Cover
48"x48" 3/4" plywood with 2x4 secured across the top and held in place by two 2x4 stakes.

<u>Title</u>	<u>Signature</u>	<u>Date</u>
BU 15 Vice President		10-09-23
BU 15 Senior Construction Manager		10-09-23
BU15 Manager of Safety		10-09-23

Revision History				
<u>Rev #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Reason for Changes</u>	<u>Originator</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>

Note: BP Requirement

Work must be performed in accordance with the information in this BP. If it is determined, that work cannot be done as required in the document or that it presents additional risk, you must obtain authorization for variance from the Business Unit Sr. Construction Manager and Business Unit Manager of Safety.