



# TOOLBOX TALK



## TOPIC DISCUSSED:

### EDGES & OPENINGS

Edges and openings must be barricaded to acceptable standards; effective barricades should not serve as a warning but also as physical restraint, to prevent people from falling into openings, excavations or from exposed edges.



## QUESTIONS:

- 1) What is a knee rail? What height must it be put up at?
- 2) What is a handrail / guardrail? What height must it be put up at?
- 3) Why do ramps need edge protection?

## THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED TO PREVENT FALLS FROM EDGES & OPENINGS:

- All physical barriers in the form of edge protection must be fitted at a height of 500mm for a knee rail and 900mm for a handrail / guardrail.
- If there is a possibility of material or tools being kicked or rolled off the edges of the slabs, decking or building edge, install toe boards to prevent equipment falling to a lower level.
- Provide rigid barricading to all access ramps and staircases to create a safe means of access.
- Rigid barricading must be able to withstand lateral forces (downward and outwards) of at least 90.7kg or greater.
- Excavations must be barricaded securely all the way around, this must be a physical barrier to prevent people, materials, and equipment from falling into the excavations.
- All edges, openings, excavations and possible fall hazards must be provided with warning signage clearly displayed and workers and the public must be made aware of the risks of the areas affected
- Good supervision must be present at all times on site and safety discipline must be enforced to prevent any incident.



It is the responsibility of management and supervisors and the health and safety teams to ensure that fall dangers are barricaded to the appropriate standard and are sufficiently signposted. These measures must be maintained on a constant basis.

