

SAFETY ALERT

Grid Flooring

Document No: IW-HSQE-SA-36

Approved By: Tom Quinlan

Revision: 1.00

Effective Date: 06/08/2019

1. What Happened?

A High Potential near miss occurred, whereby an operative who was walking across a walkway narrowly avoided falling into a tank when the grating moved and gave way beneath him – luckily the operative's quick reactions allowed him to grab the handrail and avoid the fall into the tank. The operative involved in the near miss was undertaking a daily operational routine when the incident occurred.

Note: This is the 3rd grating related incident across Irish Water projects within the last 12 months. These incidents have occurred across Operations and Asset Delivery works.



Photo 1: Incident scene where High Potential Near Miss occurred.

2. Further Actions

Operations – Daily Plant Operations

- Ensure inspections are completed on all grating/grid flooring at frequent intervals and prior to the commencement of any works to ensure they are secure and stable. Where defects are identified, notify your line manager and ensure temporary control measures are put in place immediately. Ensure works area is made safe and secure before continuing to use the grating.
- All site visitors including contractors should be made aware of the hazards associated with grating/grid flooring.

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- Continue to regularly check the grating/grid flooring in your immediate work area as you progress with your work activity and report any deficiencies immediately.
- If grating/grid flooring needs to be removed as part of any works, please ensure all flooring is reinstated in a secure and stable position once works have been complete.
- Ensure a suitable Method Statement and Risk Assessments are developed and adhered to. This should also include a detailed Emergency Response Procedure.

Asset Delivery – Construction Stage

- Ensure a site induction has been received from the authority in charge of the site before
- Carry out a full review of the work area and access routes before works commence.
- If grating/grid flooring needs to be removed as part of the works, ensure this is completed under a safe system of work (i.e. permit to work). Please ensure all flooring is reinstated in a secure and stable position once works have been completed and handed back to the relevant LA.
- Be aware of ongoing activities around you – if something seems unsafe or causes you concern – **STOP** and evaluate before proceeding.

Site Visitors

- Comply with Site Rules and requirements prepared and communicated by those in control of the works area.
- When visiting or carrying out works on site, be mindful of your own safety and that of those around you. Be aware of ongoing activities around you – if something seems unsafe or causes you concern – **STOP** and evaluate before proceeding.
- Record and report all accidents, incidents, near misses, hazardous acts or situations immediately.
- Report any asset defects to your IW host so that they can be addressed.

Please be extremely vigilant if walking or working on grid floorings or gratings. Report any issues immediately to the authority in charge of the site and ensure the issues are rectified.

3. Further Information

For further information on this safety alert please contact hsqe@water.ie

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4. Distribution list

Internal		
Asset Operations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Asset Delivery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Asset Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
All IW Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Other Please Specify _____		

External		
Local Authority <input type="checkbox"/>	DBO <input type="checkbox"/>	Capital Contracts <input type="checkbox"/>
Relevant Framework Contractors Please Specify _____		
Other Please Specify _____		