



M GROUP
Water

Safety Alert

**It starts
with me**



Lost time Injury – Fall through a manhole

01 April 2025



What happened:

Operative arrived on site and found several plastic barriers had fallen / blown over and was in the process of reinstating them. He walked over to the lay down area to collect sandbags for the barriers. In the area, there was a concrete plinth with a manhole cover. As he stepped on the cover, he fell through into the chamber. His fall was arrested, as the chamber contained redundant apparatus.

The operative suffered an injury to their knee and was assisted out of the chamber, where first aid was administered. He was later taken to A&E as his right knee became swollen.

Call to Action

When working on our sites you should always apply situational awareness of the hazards around you. Remember to ensure that your work area is always free from harm and secure for you, colleagues and visitors.

If you observe, damaged or defective covers within our work areas these must be protected and secured against people walking across them. Always raise any observations via the QR codes or to the site managers & your supervisor if the hazards cannot be resolved.

Where possible install additional temporary barriers or secure covers to cover the manhole. These can be as simple as a few traffic cones, site barriers, footway boards etc or temporary warning signs. Place appropriate signs / barriers to warn others of the hazards.

Broken or damaged covers must be raised with the site you are working on or asset owners who will hopefully come and quickly repair.