



IMPALEMENT HAZARDS

Introduction

Impalement hazards pose a serious risk at our construction sites. During our last safety assessment, impalement hazards were identified as the highest and most frequent risk encountered. These hazards can lead to severe injuries or fatalities if not properly controlled.

Common Impalement Hazards on Our Sites

Some of the most common impalement hazards we encounter include:

- **Rebar (reinforcing bars)** left exposed before concrete pours
- **T-posts** installed for fencing
- **Silt fence posts** installed by subcontractors

Required Controls and Protections

To ensure the safety of all personnel on-site, we must implement proper protection measures:

1. Rebar Protection

- All exposed rebar must be covered with rebar caps to prevent impalement injuries.
- Rebar caps are available at the safety supply store located at the Support Center.
- Subcontractors installing rebar are required to ensure all exposed ends are capped. It is our responsibility to ensure they protect the posts before they leave the site.

2. T-Posts

- If we are installing T-posts, we must cap any post that is installed at a low enough level where a person could fall onto the tip with their neck area.

3. Silt Fence Post Protection

- Subcontractors installing silt fencing are required to protect the post tops from impalement.
- Ensure all installed posts have protective caps in place before the installation subcontractor leaves the site.

Compliance

- If you identify an impalement hazard, fix it. If you do not have protectors immediately available, use temporary protection means such as boards or water bottles until the permanent protectors arrive.
- Routine inspections must be conducted to ensure all impalement hazards are controlled.
- No work should proceed in areas where impalement hazards exist without proper protections in place.

Final Reminder

Impalement injuries can be catastrophic but are entirely preventable. Protect yourself and your coworkers by ensuring all rebar, posts, and rods are properly capped. If you see something, say something.

Stay Safe—Cover It Up!