

HAZARD ALERT

Incident Title:

Rebar impalement

Date of Incident:

March 2018

Incident Description and Details:

Contractors were cutting concrete using high pressure water and they had to walk over the curing material from the previous concrete pour. The injured person (IP) was walking backwards when they tripped and fell onto a kerbing rebar approximately 150mm high.

A first aider was on site, attended the IP and the supervisor was notified. Emergency services was called and the IP was taken to hospital. The site was shutdown.

Basic Cause

- The rebar was not visually identified and was covered by plastic sheeting contributing to the trip hazard.
- All the risks associated with this task were not identified and necessary controls were not implemented.



Plastic sheeting covering unidentified hazards underneath



Use correct fitting rebar caps

Recommendations/Lessons:

To prevent workers from accidental impalement, a number of control measures can be implemented:

- Eliminate site slip, trip and fall hazards.
- Use guardrails, screens or other means to separate workers from the exposed rebars.
- Place boards over the rebar to walk on.
- Ensure rebar caps are designed to provide impalement protection and are the correct size. Standard mushroom rebar caps and/or covers are visual warnings only in preventing cuts, abrasions or other minor injuries.
- Replace rebar caps where there is the possibility of degradation from exposure to direct sunlight.

More Information:

[Managing the Risk of Falls in the Workplace](#)