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	Outline the Scene	Incident	Roof Skylight, Potential Fall
		Subject	Uncovered Penetration
		Incident Date	16-07-2021
		Business Unit	Residential – Auckland North

What happened



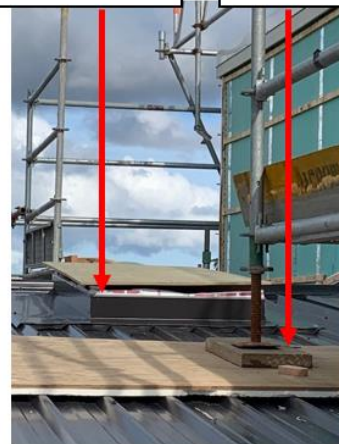
A scaffolding contractor was stripping scaffold from a roof on a terrace block of residential housing. The scaffold was a lower roof platform that straddled two open skylights. The Skylight opening was covered only by building paper and marked with pen but did not clearly warn people to the risk of a fall. The scaffolder stepped onto the building paper expecting there to be support beneath. His foot went through the building paper, however he managed to prevent his fall by grabbing the scaffold which prevented him falling through the skylight. The fall would have been 3.5 metres.

Stepped through building paper

Lower roof Scaffold platform

Cover (Plywood) skylight hole

Lower Roof



We believe all injuries are preventable, here are some questions to help us learn



Skylights are a feature in most of our designs because of the density of housing. To eliminate the risk of similar incidents, you could consider the following:

- Do you have a process in place to identify and cover open penetrations?
- Ensure all/ any open penetrations are adequately covered
- Ensure coverings are robust and cannot be removed and can withstand human weight

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For more information, please contact;

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