

# Safety and health alert

## 03/04 Young worker injured in trip

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### Incident

A grease trap cover located in the kitchen of a fast food retail outlet became dislodged from its seated position when a young worker was moving within the workplace. As a result, the young worker's right foot was caught in the exposed opening. This hyper-extended the ligaments in the employee's right knee, and he later required surgery.

### Factors

- Two previous incidents involving the unsecured grease trap cover were not followed up and investigated at the workplace.
- A person walking on an unsecured grease trap cover can dislodge it and receive serious injuries, due to the size of the grease trap opening.
- The workplace was regularly inspected by the employer but the unsecured grease trap cover was not identified as a hazard.

### Recommendations

- Inspections of all surfaces and floors should be carried out on a regular basis.
- Holes and openings in the floor should be covered, and grates and covers should be secured in position.
- Employers, or a person having control of the workplace must ensure that the floor of the workplace has an unbroken and slip resistant surface and is free from any obstruction that may cause a person to trip or fall. (Refer to *Occupational Safety and Health Regulation 3.18(1) of 1996*)

### Further information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site [www.worksafe.wa.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.wa.gov.au), or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: [safety@docep.wa.gov.au](mailto:safety@docep.wa.gov.au).

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