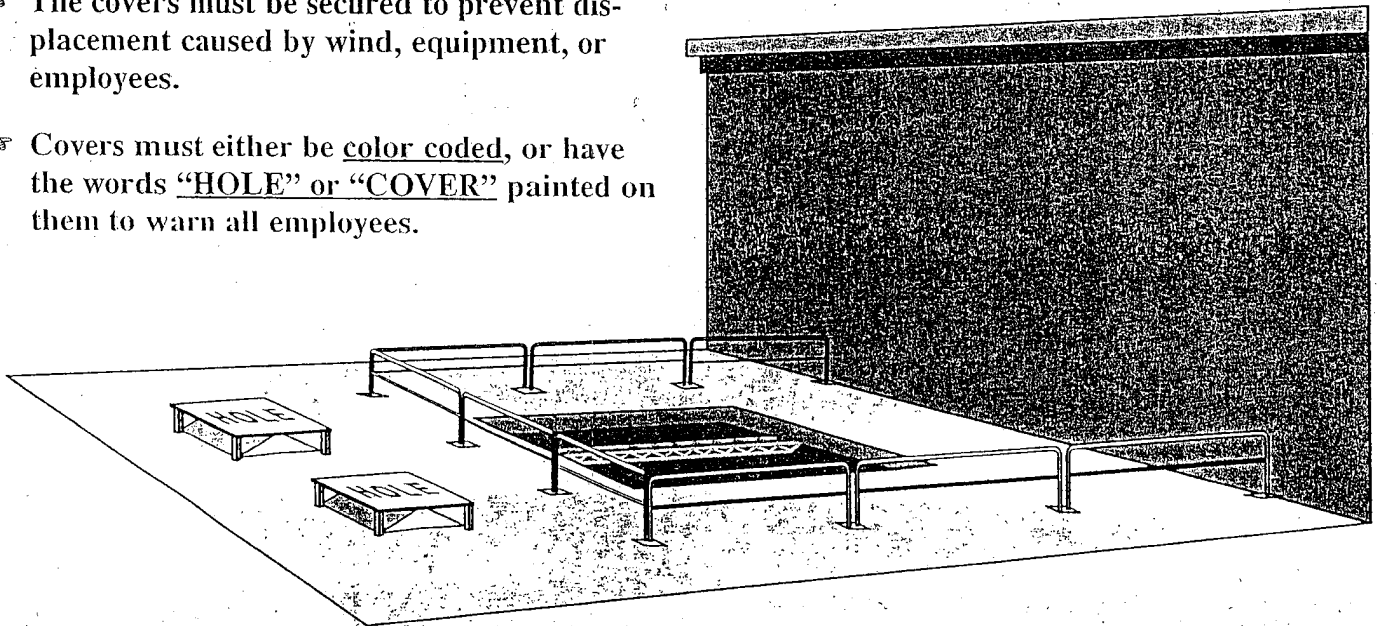




Skylights and Roof Openings

Employees must be protected from falling through holes in the roof. A hole is defined as any roof opening that is at least 2" wide. A skylight fixture may not qualify as a proper cover if it's not strong enough to support twice the weight of employees and materials.

- ☛ Protection from falls through roof openings and skylights can be in the form of personal fall arrest systems, covers, or guardrail systems.
- ☛ The covers must be secured to prevent displacement caused by wind, equipment, or employees.
- ☛ Covers must either be color coded, or have the words "HOLE" or "COVER" painted on them to warn all employees.



- ☛ If a cover is used, it must be capable of withstanding at least two times the weight of the workers and materials that are likely to stand on it or be placed upon it.
- ☛ Warning lines can be used to cordon off areas where a number of skylights are located.
- ☛ If the cover or guardrail system must be removed to install wood blocking or flashings, employees must use personal fall arrest systems.

Skylights and roof openings pose severe hazards for you when you're on the roof. It may seem unlikely to you now that you could accidentally fall through a skylight, but plenty of roofing employees have been injured or lost their lives because a skylight or roof opening was not properly covered or blocked.

Skylights and Roof Openings Training Tips

- Show a cover that is color coded, or has "HOLE" or "COVER" painted on it.
- Explain the fall hazards on your current project, if there are skylights or roof openings.
 - Ask the following questions:
 - Why can't just any piece of plywood be used as a cover?
 - Why must "HOLE", "COVER", or color coding be used?