

Safety alert

Managing the risk of falls into boring holes

This alert has been distributed to raise awareness of incidents that have been reported to TMR by principal contractors. The information may be used to initiate a review of local risk management arrangements and to ensure that control measures are in place and effective.

Risk: Fatality and permanent impairment to workers resulting from a fall from height.

A worker undertaking a geotechnical inspection of a boring hole for a noise wall footing slipped and fell approximately 4m into the excavation. The coverings normally in place to prevent a fall were required to be removed to perform the inspection, which was when the incident occurred.

Initial attempts to rescue the worker using the equipment available on site were unsuccessful. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services were required to attend site to perform the retrieval.

Fall control measures must consider all of the work activities planned to occur on site, including incidental or infrequent activities (e.g. inspections). Arrangements for emergency response must be planned and tested as appropriate.



Guidance on managing the risk of falls around excavations is outlined in:

- [Managing the risk of falls at workplaces Code of Practice 2021](#), Workplace Health and Safety Queensland
- [Excavation work Code of Practice 2021](#), Workplace Health and Safety Queensland