

SAFETY MEMO

February 28th, 2022 – Interstitial Space



Incident

Incident Description

A worker went to the walking cellar space above a production room where the HVAC units are installed. He needed to set up and prepared for the future installation of filters for the HVAC units. The goal was not to install the filters but to prepare the area and equipment for the installation to happen in the next week to save time during the shutdown (inventory of filters needed, staging the area, put filters next to units). The worker ducked under a support structure and misjudged the space above him when standing up. He hit his head on a threaded rod (Unirod) used as a support to hold a unit trust. At the time of the incident, the worker was not wearing any head protection.



Human Factor Issues

- Incident happened on a Friday at the end of the shift
- Worker was in a hurry to complete the task
- Last minute decision to put filters into interstitial space to save time in the next week
- Worker did not have a hardhat, bump cap, or other head protection
- Worker chose not to go back across the facility to get a hardhat

Design Issues

- Unirod protruding well below support structure
- Unibolt did not have a protective cap on it
- No signage at entrance indicating low ceiling with protruding objects

Consequences

A cummulation of several small events and circumstances, the worker received a laceration to the top of their head that required staples to close the wound.

Lessons Learned

- Everyone is responsible for its own safety, and you can't rely on a client to identify risk and required mitigation measures.
- It is important to remind ourselves to take time and put safety first.
- No one will ever call you out because you take the time to do things safely

