

BARRICADES AND HOLE COVERS

ALL-A0A-00-000-HGL-0005

03/09/2020



CANADA HSE GUIDELINE

Purpose: This guideline provides the minimum safety requirements for the installation and use of temporary barricades and hole covers.

When are barricades needed

Barricades prevent unauthorized persons from entering hazardous areas and may be needed:

- Around excavations and openings in floors, roofs, and work platforms.
- In areas with concurrent work activities (overhead or underneath).
- Around swing radius of equipment.



NOTE: A spotter must be used if hard barricades are not in place and mobile equipment is working within 7m of live process equipment.

Warning barricades

Warning barricades are used around areas where physical restraint is not required, examples include:

- Barricade tape including **caution** or **danger**.
- Plastic snow fence.
- Rope/chain.

Place warning barricades a minimum of **1.5 m (5 ft.)** from any fall hazard.

Flagging Type	Use
Red – Danger Flagging	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imminent safety or health hazard in the area• Examples: overhead/ suspended loads, hot work overhead, high noise (>100 db), open holes, confined space entry, etc.
Yellow – Caution Flagging	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety or health hazards of lesser danger.• Examples: tripping hazards, noise between 82 and 100 db, multiple pieces of equipment in use, overall congestion.

Hard Barricades

Hard barricades are used to physically prevent entry except through entrances. Hard barricades:

- May be temporary or permanent
- Constructed of wooden or scaffold posts, rails/cable, or concrete.
- If placed at the edge of a fall hazard must include mid-rails and top rails.
- Should have flashing amber lights or reflective tape in vehicle traffic areas.

Barricade Tags

Barricade tags are placed at each entrance point, all sides of the barricade and include the following information:

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- Name of person and date barricade was installed.
- Purpose of barricade and PPE requirements.
- Special conditions and contact information.

Use of Hole Covers

Hole covers are required when there are open holes in the ground, floor or decking at any elevation. Hole covers are constructed as follows:

- Extend beyond the limits of the hole and designed to meet max loads.
- Secured to not move out of place
- Labelled with: WARNING – TEMPORARY COVER, DO NOT REMOVE

Construct wooden hole covers as follows:

- If one dimension of the opening is 51 cm (20 in.) long or shorter, use a minimum of 19 mm (¾ in.) plywood.
- If both dimensions of the opening exceed 51 cm (20 in.), use a minimum of two layers of 2 cm (0.75 in.) plywood, or 5 cm (2 in.) lumber.

General Use of Barricades

General requirements for barricade use are as follows:

- Ensure barricades are extended outwards 0.3 meters for every 0.6 meters of height for overhead work.
- Do not allow barricades to block emergency access / egress routes or emergency equipment.
- Ensure barricades are spaced at appropriate intervals and that tape barricades are designed to not sag or be blown over.

Entering Barricaded Areas

The following table describes barricade types and associated actions:

Barricade type	Action
Yellow Caution Tape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read tag and understand purpose • Notify work crew of entry
Red Danger Tape (Do not enter)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Tag and understand purpose • Request permission to enter • Sign onto applicable hazard assessment
Radiography tape (Yellow/Magenta)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A barricade erected for radiographic work is considered no entry. Only enter if authorized to perform radiographic work.

Barricade Tape and Tags Examples

Barricade Tape	Example
Yellow Caution Tape	
Red Danger Tape	
Barricade Tag	