



HSE Safety Alert

U.S. Pipeline, Inc.



Date:	December 20, 2016
Situation:	Mat Platform for HDD sites/Parking/Extra Workspace
Notification to:	All USPL Employees

Mat Platform for Parking/HDD Sites

Considering a recent event on one of US Pipeline's projects, it is necessary to put together a written policy to provide mitigation for a hazard that created an event that injured one of USPL's employees'. Although most of our spreads implement this best practice, it will be necessary to make sure that all spreads are aware of these best practices and implement one or multiple corrective actions to prevent an event like this to occur in the future.

On a recent project, one of our employees was injured when they stepped into an opening on a Mat platform utilized for parking of vehicles on the jobsite. This type of platforms is utilized in our industry for several work areas; HDD sites, extra workspace, and parking for vehicles/equipment on the ROW. It has been an industry best practice to fill these openings to mitigate a slip, trip, fall hazard on the jobsite. This policy will clarify the steps of these best practices to mitigate this hazard moving forward on all USPL projects.

When platforms need to be installed, the crew that will be installing them will need to consider what may be utilized to fill the openings on the platform that are located on the interior. The following need to be considered when selecting what will be utilized to fill the openings:

1. **Onsite subsoil be utilized.** This should be the first and most utilized option for filling the openings on the platform. Topsoil is never to be utilized to fill the openings.
2. **Foreign material such as sand.** If allowed, sand should be utilized to fill these openings.
3. **Sand bags, small rock, etc.** If onsite subsoil or foreign material will not be allowed to be used to fill the openings, sand bags or bags with small rock should be utilized to fill or cover these openings.
4. **Plywood or Barriers.** Some type of wood product to be cut and secured to the Mat platform over the openings, or some sort of barriers to be installed at the openings identifying the tripping hazard.



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5. **If none of the above can be completed, a variance needs to be completed with the client approval if the openings cannot be mitigated.** If this is the case, the Field Safety Professional will provide a documented safety meeting with all personnel working on this location identifying all the hazards on the platform.

By utilizing one or more of the best practice techniques listed above, USPL can assure that we are continuing to strive to provide the safest work environment for our employees, third party, subcontractors, and any other personnel that enter this worksite.

Example Of Openings On Mat Platform





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Examples of Sand Bag Mitigation

