

# Shared Learning

IP Central

## Lost Time Injury from Twisted Ankle at Blackpool

An Operative stepped down from a scaffold tower and went over on their ankle due to uneven ground and suffered a sprain which resulted in 2 days off work.

### Details:

The tower scaffold used to access the work was positioned adjacent to a redundant ballast shoulder which meant that the access and egress from the tower was directly onto it. Due to the nature of the work area, the team were briefed that the ground was uneven and possibly slippery. This briefing was given as part of the task brief, the daily hazards brief and as part of the site induction.

The reason that the ballast was covered in visqueen, was to protect it from further contamination during the hydro demolition works.

Risk assessments were in place which identified the hazards however we should follow the Principles of Prevention and remove hazards during the design phase wherever possible.



From the picture you can see that there are many hazards that could cause a trip or a fall. Have a look to see how many there are but more importantly ask the question why haven't these been identified and suitable controls applied. Is it because we do not challenge the way we work enough or are we becoming more accustomed to hazards?

## Shared Learning:

### Existing Hazards:

Identify these during the initial site walkout and pass them on to the designer so that they are considered during the design phase. In this particular case the ballast shoulder was redundant and could have been levelled off.

### Construction methodology:

This should focus on the protection of the individual in the first instance rather than the asset. We actually introduced a hazard by putting down the visqueen.

### Monitoring:

When carrying out monitoring activities you must speak to the individuals that are working in the area, more often than not they will tell you what the issues are.