

SAFETY MATTERS CONSTRUCTION SERIES



Unguarded Protruding Steel Rebar

Understanding the Danger

Unguarded protruding steel reinforcing bars are hazardous. Even if you just stumble onto an unguarded rebar you can impale yourself, resulting in serious internal injuries or death.

Avoiding the Hazards

- Guard all protruding ends of steel rebar with rebar caps or wooden troughs.
- Bend rebar so exposed ends are no longer upright.
- When employees are working at any height above exposed rebar, fall protection/prevention is the first line of defense against impalement.



Rebar Caps



- The OSHA standard requires that rebar "be guarded to eliminate the hazard of impalement." However, not all guards provide that level of protection. In some circumstances, the force of a fall can cause rebar to push clear through a plastic cap and still impale a worker, or the worker can be impaled by the rebar and the cap together.
- Only rebar caps designed to provide impalement protection, such as those containing steel reinforcement, should be used.

Safety Matters Construction Series information is extracted directly from OSHA safety materials. For additional information consult www.OSHA.gov