



## University of Northern Iowa Physical Plant

### **POLICY FOR PROTECTION OF BILCO DOOR/MANHOLE OPENINGS**

EFFECTIVE 5/1/2004

Pursuant to 29CFR 1910.23(a) of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Code of Federal Regulations:

*(5) Every pit and trapdoor floor opening, infrequently used, shall be guarded by a floor opening cover of standard strength and construction. While the cover is not in place, the pit or trap opening shall be constantly attended by someone or shall be protected by removable standard railings.*

*(6) Every manhole floor opening shall be guarded by a standard manhole cover which need not be hinged in place. While the cover is not in place, the manhole opening shall be constantly attended by someone or shall be protected by a removable standard railing.*

A standard railing is defined in 1910.21(a)(6) as: *A vertical barrier erected along exposed edges of a floor opening, wall opening, ramp, platform, or runway to prevent falls of persons.*

**As a result of the aforementioned OSHA regulations, It shall be the policy of the University of Northern Iowa Physical Plant that all Bilco type door openings covering pits, steam vaults, or tunnel entrances or any manhole type openings shall be protected on all sides by either a permanent or temporary removable standard railing whenever the opening is left unprotected. It is the responsibility of the person(s) who opened the entrances to provide the required protection.**

Dean Shoars  
Director, Physical Plant  
April 23, 2004