PATIENT CRUSHED DURING RENOVATION

Problem

What

When

Where

Impact to the

- Patient death, renovation area hazards
- November 7, 2013
- Fire door
- Home Care Centre in Moston, Great Britain
- Patient death

- Patient safety
- November 7, 2013
- Fire door
- Home Care Centre in Moston, Great Britain
- Patient death

Analysis

Basic Level Cause Map

- Patient crushed under fire door
- Patient in renovation area
- Patient death

More Detailed Cause Map

- Fire door fell
- Patient death
- Patient broke hip
- Patient crushed under fire door

Solutions

Some amount of hazard always exists in construction sites - this is why hard hats are generally required. It’s also why access to these sites is controlled. In this case, limiting access to only those that need it was determined to be the best way to protect patients. Because the previous process for ensuring the area was locked had failed, the companies introduced a new procedure.

The lessons learned from this tragedy are applicable not only to the specific situation of care homes undergoing renovation but to all those who have a need to protect a vulnerable population or limit access to a hazardous site to ensure safety. Simple things like making sure doors are locked at the end of the day may save a life.

"Both firms clearly knew there were vulnerable residents living at the care home but they still allowed the door to what was essentially a building site to be left unlocked on numerous occasions. Following the incident, the companies introduced a new procedure which meant workers had to collect and return a key at the start and end of each day, and lock the door when there was no one inside."

- Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Inspector Laura Moran