

# **FATAL ALERT**

On January 4th, 2014, a seasonal employee working in an industrial setting entered a room known as the trash room. The room had a layer of foam on covering the walking/working surface. The employee was in the room walking around to perform preventative maintenance (possibly greasing equipment, when she fell into an opening normally covered by a metal grate. The opening was associated with food processing equipment and was filled with water and unprocessed food. The employee was not able to self-rescue and drowned. There were no witnesses to the event. Prior to the incident there was knowledge of the grating being out of place possible dislodged and not replaced. No warnings were given to the worker entering to area on the day of the incident.

## **Significant Factors:**

- Inadequate control of foam buildup on walking/working surfaces.
- Inadequate actions were taken by management to ensure the grating was properly placed over the opening and could not become dislodged.

## **Recommendations:**

- Ensure all employees understand their responsibility to immediately correct unsafe working conditions when they brought to their attention.
- Train all employees to recognize hazards associated with the workplace and the methods to be used to avoid the unsafe working conditions.