Nathan McDonald, WorkCover Inspector: An experienced worker suffered a serious brain injury when he fell through a stair void on a house construction site.

If you work in house construction, keep your people safe.

*text on screen: Voids in house construction safety alert.

The 60-year-old worker was on the first floor helping to move some materials when he tripped and fell through the void.

Hitting the ground from three metres, he suffered multiple fractures and a serious brain injury – and hasn’t worked since.

There was no barrier to stop anyone falling through the void.

*text on screen: What should I do? Simple steps.

*text on screen: Cover the void.

To stop this happening at your workplace, plan so that you have a fixed cover ready to install as soon as any void is cut. The cover must be strong enough for people, materials and likely impacts. That’s the simplest way to make your void safe.

Where a fixed cover isn’t possible, choose what else will work for your site. This could be:

*text on screen: Use a working platform, and/or install a barrier.

• A working platform that keeps workers away from the void and/or a physical barrier such as a secure fence or edge protection.

It’s always important to explain your void protection to everyone on-site, and make sure they know what to do if changes are needed. This includes your workers, subbies and other visitors to your site.

*text on screen: Educate everyone on-site.

Work safe. Home safe.

*text on screen: To prevent falls through voids:

• Cover the void and educate everyone on-site.

• If you can’t use a cover, use a working platform and/or install a barrier.

We are here to help.

Call 13 10 50 Visit workcover.nsw.gov.au