

# Safety Alert

December 2018

## Loose and Falling Ceiling Tiles

**A ceiling tile fell from the suspended ceiling grid striking a worker at their desk.**

### Background

In well illuminated office environment a compressed mineral fibre ceiling panel measuring 1200mm x 600mm fell from 2 metres from its ceiling support grid system without any human intervention.

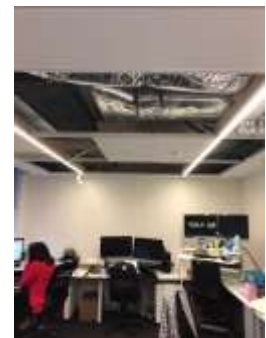
The ceiling panel struck a worker on the head who was sat at their desk. The impact injured the worker requiring medical treatment.

### What was done well

- Swift appropriate action from the local first aider for the injured worker within 1-2 minutes following the incident.
- Office staff contacted Estate Management Help Desk advising of the incident.
- Swift response from Estate Management Building Manager in assessing the area and making safe any other suspect ceiling panels.
- Prompt inspection of the entire building level where these panels were installed, and further rectification of any suspect panels carried out.
- Assessment and rectification work of suspect panels commenced within 15 minutes of incident taking place.

### Call for local Areas to take

- Ensure room identification labels for all doors to assist with location description when reporting issues.
- Ensure workers are aware of First Aid Officers and Floor Wardens in their area, to assist in identifying them quickly in the event of a medical emergency.
- Ensure your level 3 HSE committees workplace inspections include looking for loose ceiling panels if you have a suspended ceiling in your workplace.



#### **Further Information:**

Contact your Faculty Health & Safety Coordinator  
<http://safety.unsw.edu.au/contacts>

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