



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Engineering and Support Center,
Huntsville

Safety Office

Mishap Lessons Learned



Subject: Knee Injury at Job Site

Event: While walking in the pea gravel covered liner in the tank dike area, the worker felt his right knee pop and he fell from the pain. After visiting an orthopedic surgeon, it was discovered that the pop was a torn patellar tendon. Outpatient surgery was required to repair the torn tendon.

Root Cause(s): Unknown pre-existing deteriorated tendon in knee tore while walking per orthopedic surgeon

Indirect Cause: Loose Walking Surface (pea gravel)

Recommendations:

1. Emphasis on walking surfaces at the daily safety talk.
2. Inspect the area before workers are allowed into the dikes, making sure that there is a firm surface. No dips, bare spots, or exposed liner.
3. Make sure that workers have the proper foot wear.
4. Review all Activity Hazard Analysis and add slip, trip, and fall awareness to all.
5. Disseminate incident and lessons learned throughout the company.
6. Include incident and lessons learned in bi-weekly team calls.
7. Disseminate incident information and lessons learned to all Subcontractors actively working within the program.

