January 19 — Moving Ground

Outside the asphalt near the walkway was moving up and down like it was breathing potentially having a void under the walkway and caving in	Got with customers maintenance immediately and got the area barricaded.

The surface looked solid, but it wasn't acting solid. Asphalt doesn't move unless something underneath it is missing. What looked like a normal walkway was actually unsupported in places, meaning a person or vehicle could suddenly break through without warning. Ground failure doesn't give second chances once the surface gives way, there's no time to step back.

> The ground went up, the ground went down,
> That's not how walkways stick around.
> If pavement moves, don't take the chance,
> That "solid" ground may not be dance.

This hazard is dangerous because it hides in plain sight.

Hazards

- Sudden collapse of the walking or driving surface
- Fall into a void resulting in serious injury
- Equipment or vehicles breaking through the surface
- Secondary collapse affecting nearby areas
- Struck-by or caught-in injuries from ground failure

Stats

- Ground collapse incidents often occur without visible warning signs
- Subsurface voids are a known cause of sudden walkway and roadway failures
- Many structural failures are first detected by movement, vibration, or sound, not cracks
- Plant condition hazards are frequently underestimated due to familiarity

Words of Wisdom

- If the ground moves, it's not ground anymore.
- Solid-looking doesn't mean solid.

Pause and Think

People trust walking surfaces by default. We're wired to assume the ground will hold us. That's what makes this hazard so dangerous — it contradicts our expectations. Movement in pavement or concrete is an early warning sign that support is missing underneath. Catching it early is what prevents someone from finding the void the hard way.

- What surfaces do we trust without question?
- What signs tell us the ground isn't behaving normally?
- Who should be notified when a condition like this is found?