



September 1 — Drain It Before You Break It

Employees were tasked with changing an acid pump. Everything was locked out properly and they had all the correct PPE. When looking over the job I noticed where the line break was going to occur, it is a low spot in the pipe. After looking at the prints on the new pump I noticed there is a drain on the bottom of the pump that will allow the piping to be completely drained.

Reviewed the print with employees and had them open that drain first to help alleviate this hazard.

Look Beyond the Lock

A proper lockout is an essential first step—but it isn't always the last step.

While preparing to change an acid pump, the crew had completed the lockout and had the proper PPE. However, a closer look at the job revealed another concern. The planned line break was located at a low point in the piping, where material could potentially remain trapped.

Instead of simply assuming the lockout had made the job safe, the crew reviewed the pump prints and found a drain that could be used to completely drain the piping before breaking the line.

That extra review changed the way the job could be performed. The equipment was locked out, but the crew took the additional step of controlling what could still be inside the piping.

This is a great reminder that safe work requires us to look beyond the checklist. Understanding the equipment, reviewing drawings, identifying low points and asking what could still be trapped in a system can prevent an unexpected release when a line is opened.

Hazards

- Trapped acid or process material
- Unexpected release of product
- Chemical exposure
- Pressure or residual energy
- Line of fire exposure during a line break
- Relying on lockout alone without verifying the system is drained
- Failing to review available drains or isolation points

Words of Wisdom

Lockout controls the energy. Verification controls the unexpected.

Pause and Think

- When breaking into a line, what could still be trapped inside even after the equipment is locked out?
- Do you know where the drains are located on the equipment you're working on?
- When was the last time you reviewed a drawing or print before starting a maintenance job?
- What low points, pockets, or dead legs could hold product in the system?
- How can we verify that a line is actually ready to be opened?
- Are we relying on the lockout, or are we verifying the condition of the system?

Closing Thought

Don't stop at "It's locked out." Look at the entire system, understand what could still be trapped, and take the extra step to make the job safe before breaking the line.



September 2 – Stop the Hot Work

Replacing the propane tank on a forklift while welding nearby(operator removing the propane tank and let it bleed off while others performing hot work near)	Stop the hot work air out the area
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When Hot Work Meets Flammable Materials

Welding and other hot-work activities create heat, sparks and ignition sources. That means we need to pay attention not only to the person doing the welding, but also to what is happening around them.

In this situation, a propane tank was being removed from a forklift and was allowed to bleed off while welding was taking place nearby. Even though the welding and propane work were separate tasks, they were happening close enough to create a serious potential for an incident.

The right decision was to stop the hot work and address the propane release first.

This is a good example of why we need to look beyond our own task and communicate with other crews working in the same area. A job that is safe by itself can become dangerous when another activity introduces a new hazard. Before starting hot work, make sure you know what is happening around you and stop if another task creates a potential ignition or fire hazard.

Hazards

- Flammable propane gas near an ignition source
- Welding sparks and hot metal
- Fire or flash-fire potential
- Flammable atmosphere
- Multiple crews performing conflicting tasks
- Failure to recognize hazards created by another work activity

Words of Wisdom

Hot work requires more than watching the flame. Look around your work area, identify what could create a fire or explosion hazard, and separate conflicting work before you begin.

Pause and Think

- What activities around us could create a flammable atmosphere?
- Before starting hot work, what should we look for in the surrounding area?
- Are there other crews working nearby that could create a hazard for our task?
- What should you do if you discover a conflicting activity?
- Would you be willing to stop a job that wasn't yours if you saw a potential fire hazard?

Closing Thought

Don't just look at your own task. Look at what's happening around you. A safe job can become an unsafe job when two hazards meet.



September 3 — Stay Out of the Line of Fire

Electricians and millwrights were tasked with changing a motor. Both crews were working together in close proximity. We had the motor rigged up and a few bolts left in getting ready to move forward with removing the motor. I noticed one employee had been going under the motor to detach electrical parts.

I made sure to get his attention and let him know we were going to move forward with removing the motor and to stay out of the way.

When a load is rigged and ready to move, where you stand matters just as much as what you are doing.

In this situation, multiple crews were working together around a motor that was rigged and preparing to be removed. An employee was underneath the motor working on electrical components. Once the lift or removal began, that employee could have been directly in the path of the load.

The important takeaway is to recognize **when the job is changing**. A position that may have been safe a few moments ago can become dangerous when the load is ready to move.

The hazard wasn't necessarily that the employee had been underneath the motor a few moments earlier. The hazard was that the conditions were changing and the motor was now ready to move. When a job changes, the safe position can change with it. Everyone needs to recognize when the next step of the job creates a new line-of-fire hazard.

Before the motor is moved, everyone involved in the job needs to know:

- Where the motor is going
- Where the line of fire is
- Who is involved in the removal
- Where everyone needs to stand
- When the motor is going to move

If you're not directly involved in the removal, stay clear of the motor and the area where it could move.

Hazards

- Working underneath a suspended load
- Line of fire exposure
- Unexpected movement of the motor
- Multiple crews working in close proximity
- Communication breakdown between crews
- Being struck by or caught beneath the load

Words of Wisdom

A suspended load doesn't have to move far to cause an injury. Know the line of fire, communicate before the lift, and keep everyone clear of the load's path.

Pause and Think

- Is it ever acceptable to work underneath a suspended load?
- When a load is rigged, where should you position yourself?
- What happens when another crew is working in the same area?
- How do you know when a load is about to move?
- If you see someone entering the line of fire, are you willing to stop and warn them?

Closing Thought

Don't wait for the load to move before you move yourself. Know where the danger zone is and stay out of it.

See Something • Say Something • Do Something



September 4 — Don't Reach Beyond the Safe Working Area

An employee was using a scissors lift to rig equipment being offloaded in the shop. He was properly using PPE while in the scissor lift but as he reached to connect a shackle, he stepped up onto the toe plate. This could lead to a fall or to a foot injury.

I stopped the employee immediately and told him to step back down to the lift floor and to raise the lift instead. He complied without complaint and soon after we had a conversation about proper lift usage and fall prevention policies

The safest position is the one the equipment was designed for.

An employee was using a scissor lift to rig equipment being offloaded in the shop. The employee was wearing the proper PPE, but while reaching to connect a shackle, they stepped onto the toe plate of the scissor lift.

The employee was stopped immediately and instructed to step back down onto the lift floor and raise the lift to the proper working height. The employee complied, and proper lift usage and fall prevention were discussed.

The toe plate is not an extension of the work platform. Stepping onto it changes the employee's footing and balance and can make it easier to lose their position while reaching or handling the load. If the work cannot be safely reached from the platform floor, the answer is to reposition or raise the lift—not to climb higher on the lift.

Hazards

- Falling from the scissor lift
- Foot or leg injury
- Loss of balance while reaching
- Improper use of the lift
- Increased exposure while working at height
- Potential injury while rigging equipment

Words of Wisdom

If you can't safely reach the work, don't reach farther—reposition the equipment. A safe work platform only works when you stay within its intended working area.

Pause and Think

- Are you keeping both feet on the lift floor while working?
- What should you do if you cannot safely reach the work?
- Could stepping onto the toe plate cause you to lose your balance?
- Are you using the lift to position yourself at the proper working height?
- Are you willing to stop and reposition the lift rather than take a shortcut?

Closing Thought

A few extra inches of reach aren't worth the risk of a fall. Position the lift correctly and keep yourself safely on the platform.



September 7 — Rigging to the Right Point

Client's mechanic had a chain fall rigged to an 8 inch PVC pipe. Pointed that out it was dark he flash his light and said yeah, he thought that the pipe was stainless steel!!	He went and got a beam clamp and hung the chain fall on a beam to do the lift! And he installed some lights as well!!!
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A client mechanic was preparing to make a lift using a chain fall that had been rigged to an 8-inch PVC pipe. The area was also dark, making it difficult to properly identify the material and determine whether it was suitable for supporting the load.

The hazard was pointed out to the mechanic, who initially believed the pipe was stainless steel. Instead of continuing with an uncertain attachment point, he obtained a beam clamp and connected the chain fall to a beam that was appropriate for the lift. Additional lighting was also installed so the work area could be properly seen.

When rigging equipment, never assume that a pipe, beam, structure, or attachment point is capable of supporting a load. If you cannot clearly identify what you are connecting to or verify that it is suitable, stop and find a safer solution.

Good lighting is also an important part of a safe lift. Being able to clearly see the rigging, attachment points, load, and surrounding area helps employees identify hazards before the lift begins.

Hazards

- Rigging to an unsuitable attachment point
- Structural failure during a lift
- Dropped or shifting loads
- Poor visibility during rigging
- Incorrect identifying piping or structural members
- Serious injury from a failed lift

Words of Wisdom

Never guess what can hold the load—know before you lift.

Pause and Think

- Do you know exactly what you are rigging to?
- Have you verified that the attachment point is suitable for the load?
- Can you clearly see your rigging and attachment points?
- What should you do if you are unsure what a pipe or structural member is?
- Are you willing to stop the job rather than make an assumption?

Closing Thought

A safe lift starts before the load leaves the ground. Know your attachment point, make sure you can see it, and never guess when it comes to what will hold the load.



September 8 — Know Your Load Chart

Employee was operating a fork lift and tried to extend boom out which caused the rear tires to leave the ground slightly.	Stopped them and had them review the load chart on lift. Also explained that while lifting heavy loads you should stay as close as you can to the load at all times.
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Keep the Load Close and Stay Within the Limits

An employee was operating a forklift and attempted to extend the boom while handling a load. As the boom was extended, the rear tires of the forklift began to lift slightly off the ground.

The operation was stopped before the situation became more serious. The employee reviewed the load chart for the lift, and the importance of keeping heavy loads as close to the machine as possible was discussed.

Extending a boom changes the way the weight of the load affects the equipment. As the load moves farther away from the machine, stability can be affected. The load chart provides important information about what the equipment can safely handle based on the configuration and position of the load.

Before making a lift or extending a boom, know the limits of the equipment and stay within them.

Hazards

- Loss of equipment stability
- Rear tires lifting off the ground
- Tip-over potential
- Dropped or shifted loads
- Exceeding the equipment's rated capacity
- Serious injury to the operator or nearby employees

Words of Wisdom

Equipment has limits for a reason. Know what your machine can safely handle before you reach, lift, or extend farther.

Pause and Think

- Do you know where to find the load chart on the equipment you operate?
- What happens to stability when you extend a boom?
- Are you keeping heavy loads as close to the machine as possible?
- What should you do if the equipment begins to feel unstable?
- Have you reviewed the load chart before handling an unfamiliar load?

Closing Thought

Know the limits of your equipment before you test them. Keep the load close, follow the load chart, and never sacrifice stability to gain reach.



September 9 — Protect Yourself from Welding Arc Flash

A customer's employee was welding handrail while another coworker was holding the piece without a face shield or welding hood.

Had him put one on.

Everyone Around Hot Work Needs Protection

A customer's employee was welding a handrail while another coworker was helping hold the piece in position. The coworker was not wearing a faceshield or welding hood while working near the welding operation.

The employee was instructed to put on the appropriate protection before continuing the task. Even though the coworker was not performing the welding, they were still close enough to be exposed to the hazards created by the welding operation.

The person holding the handrail may not be the one creating the welding arc, but they are still working directly beside it. Welding produces intense light, radiation, sparks, and hot material that can affect anyone within the exposure area. PPE requirements don't change based on who is holding the material. If you are close enough to be exposed, you need the appropriate protection before the welding begins.

Hazards

- Arc flash to the eyes
- Eye injury from welding radiation
- Burns to exposed skin
- Exposure to sparks and hot material
- Injury to employees assisting with hot work

Words of Wisdom

PPE isn't just for the person operating the tool. If your job puts you inside the exposure zone, you need the same level of protection as the person creating the hazard.

Pause and Think

- Are you wearing the proper eye and face protection when working around welding?
- Does everyone assisting with hot work have the appropriate PPE?
- Are you close enough to the welding arc to be exposed?
- Have you considered the hazards to the person helping hold the material?
- Is additional protection needed before the work begins?

Closing Thought

Hot work doesn't only affect the person holding the welding gun. Protect everyone who is close enough to be exposed.



September 10 — Secure the Equipment Before Entering

We needed to enter a confined space. We checked the locked out to find the dryer drum was not secured and needed to be done before entering. The drum was then secured so we could continue job.	Along attached to drum and secured before work was started
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Don't Enter Until the Hazard Is Controlled

Employees were preparing to enter a confined space and checked the lockout before entering. During the check, they discovered that the dryer drum had not been properly secured.

The drum needed to be secured before anyone entered the confined space. The drum was then secured, allowing the work to continue.

Locking out the energy source does not automatically mean that every piece of equipment inside the space is physically secure. Equipment can still have the potential to move, rotate, fall, or shift if it has not been properly secured. Before entering a confined space, verify not only that the energy has been isolated, but also that the equipment itself is secured against movement.

Taking the time to identify and correct the hazard before entry helped prevent a potentially serious incident.

Hazards

- Unexpected movement of equipment
- Stored energy
- Struck by or caught between hazards
- Equipment movement inside a confined space
- Serious injury to employees inside the space.

Words of Wisdom

Lockout protects you from unexpected energy, but securing the equipment protects you from unexpected movement. Before entering a confined space, verify that both have been addressed.

Pause and Think

- Has all equipment been properly locked out before entering?
- Has the equipment been secured against movement?
- Could stored energy or equipment movement create a hazard?
- Have you personally verified the equipment is safe before entering?
- What would happen if the equipment moved while someone was inside?

Closing Thought

A confined space gives you less room to react when something goes wrong. Take the time to secure the equipment before you enter.



September 11 — Protect the People Working Below

Other contractors were working above, unaware that there were people working below them and they were dropping product/debris through the grating. Possibility of particles in eye or struck by small tool/bolt	Made them aware of our presence and had them lay down fire blanket on grating
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Look Up Before You Work Below

Other contractors were working above an area where employees were working below them. The contractors were unaware that people were working underneath, and products and debris were falling through the grating.

This created the potential for someone below to be struck by falling material, a small tool, or a bolt. It also created the possibility of debris or particles entering an employee's eyes.

The employees made the contractors aware that people were working below. A fire blanket was then placed over the grating to help prevent material from falling into the work area below.

When work is taking place at different levels, everyone needs to know who is working above and below them. Good communication and proper protection can prevent a simple task from creating a serious struck-by hazard.

Hazards

- Falling tools and materials
- Struck by injuries
- Eye injuries from falling debris or particles
- Employees working below unaware of overhead work
- Unprotected openings or grating
- Poor communication between work crews

Words of Wisdom

When work is happening above someone, you have a responsibility to know who's below you and protect them from anything that could fall.

Pause and Think

- Do you know if anyone is working below your work area?
- Could your tools, materials, or debris fall to another level?
- Have you communicated with the crew working below?
- Is the area below properly protected?
- What can you do to prevent materials from falling through grating or openings?

Closing Thought

What's safe above can become a hazard below. Communicate, protect the area, and make sure everyone knows when work is happening overhead.



September 14 — Your Lock Is Your Responsibility

We had electrical lock out for equipment. Another contractor that was working on the equipment wanted to go to lunch but know while he was gone that most likely the locks would be removed and adjusted for a different lockout. the contractor tried to give me his key to remove his lock when needed.

I let him know that was not going to happen and that he alone was responsible or his lockout and that he needed to stay and not go to lunch (like we was doing) to get locks off and reconfigure the lockout for the now system. He was not happy, but he did stay to take his lock off.

Never Give Someone Else Control of Your Lockout

During an electrical lockout, a contractor needed to leave for lunch. He was concerned that the lockout would be removed and reconfigured while he was gone, so he attempted to give his key to another employee to remove his lock when needed.

The employee was told that this was not an acceptable practice and that he was personally responsible for his own lockout. He needed to remain at the job until his lock could be properly removed and the lockout reconfigured.

Personal locks are used to protect employees from unexpected energization. Your lock represents your personal protection, and you are responsible for controlling it. Your key should remain under your control and should never be handed to someone else to remove your lock.

When a lockout needs to be changed, take the time to follow the proper process rather than creating a shortcut.

Hazards

- Unauthorized removal of personal lock
- Unexpected equipment energization
- Loss of personal protection
- Improper lockout reconfiguration
- Serious injury from unexpected startup

Words of Wisdom

Your personal lock represents your protection. Keep control of your lock and key, and never take a shortcut with your lockout.

Pause and Think

- Who is responsible for your personal lockout?
- Would you ever give someone else your lock key?
- What should happen if a lockout needs to be changed while you are working?
- Are you maintaining control of your personal lock and key?
- What could happen if your lock were removed without you knowing?

Closing Thought

Never take a shortcut with lockout. If your lock is on the equipment, your responsibility is on the line.



September 15 — Two Hazards Are Still Two Hazards

Employee was on an extension ladder without a harness using a grinder without a face shield!!	I informed A-Lert employees that this was a perfect example of what not to do as an A-Lert and that we take tie off absolutely serious.
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An employee was working from an extension ladder without a harness while using a grinder without a face shield.

This situation presented two separate safety concerns at the same time. The employee was working at height without the required fall protection, while also operating a grinder without the appropriate face protection.

The observation is a good reminder that one unsafe condition can quickly become several. The employee was working at height without fall protection while also using a grinder without appropriate face protection. Even though the discussion that followed focused on the importance of tie-off, the entire task demonstrates why we need to look at every hazard present—not just the one that catches our attention first.

Using a grinder requires us to think about the hazards created by the tool, while working from an elevated position requires us to think about fall protection. One does not eliminate the other.

Before starting a task, take a moment to look at the complete work situation. Where are you working? What tool are you using? What could happen if you lose your balance? What could happen if the tool kicks back or throws debris?

Hazards

- Fall from an extension ladder
- Eye and face injuries from grinding
- Flying sparks and particles
- Working at heights without proper fall protection
- Loss of balance while operating a grinder

Words of Wisdom

A safe tool doesn't make an unsafe work position safe. Look at the entire task and make sure you're protected from every hazard, not just the one in your hands.

Pause and Think

- Are you properly protected from falls before starting work at height?
- Do you have the proper eye and face protection for the tool you're using?
- Have you identified all of the hazards associated with the task?
- Are you using the safest method available to perform the work?
- Would you stop if you noticed another hazard after the job had already started?

Closing Thought

Safe work means looking at the whole task—not just the tool in your hands. Identify every hazard, protect yourself from each one, and don't accept shortcuts.



September 16 — Keep Combustibles Away From Hot Work

Employee was grinding on the second floor above the grating and had a cart below with solvents and paint thinners below them	Had them stop and go move the cart away from where they were working
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Don't Let Sparks Find the Fuel

An employee was grinding on the second floor while a cart containing solvents and paint thinners was positioned below the work area. Grinding creates sparks and hot particles that can travel beyond the immediate work area.

With flammable materials directly below the grinding operation, there was a potential for sparks or hot material to reach the solvents or paint thinners and create a fire hazard.

The work was stopped and the cart was moved away from the area before grinding continued. Taking a moment to look beyond the immediate work area helped identify a hazard that could easily have been overlooked.

Before starting grinding or other hot work, look above, below, and around your work area for anything that could catch fire.

Hazards

- Fire from sparks contacting flammable materials
- Flammable liquids exposed to hot work
- Sparks traveling through grating
- Fire spreading to nearby materials
- Property damage and potential injury

Words of Wisdom

Hot work hazards don't always stay where the work is happening. Look above, below, and around your work area and remove anything that sparks or hot material could ignite.

Pause and Think

- What is directly below your grinding or hot work area?
- Are there solvents, paint, or other flammable materials nearby?
- Can sparks or hot particles travel to another level?
- Have you checked above, below, and around your work area?
- What needs to be moved before hot work begins?

Closing Thought

Hot work doesn't stop at the edge of your work area. Look around, look below, and remove anything that could give a spark a place to start a fire.



September 17 — Stop and Assess Before Unhooking

Crane cable had fallen off side of boom while connected to load	Called up to see if it was safe to unhook, it was. Crane operator unhooked and raised boom to get it in correct position. Cable was inspected before work continued.
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A Shift in the Rigging Can Change the Hazard

During a crane operation, the crane cable fell off the side of the boom while it was still connected to the load. Rather than immediately approaching the equipment or attempting to correct the situation, the employee first contacted the crane operator to determine whether it was safe to unhook.

The crane operator confirmed that it was safe to proceed. The load was unhooked, the boom was raised and repositioned, and the cable was inspected before work continued.

When something changes during a lift, don't assume the next step is obvious. Stop, communicate with the operator and anyone involved, and make sure the condition is understood before approaching or adjusting the equipment. A small change in the position of a cable or load can create unexpected movement or stored energy. Taking a moment to reassess can keep a changing situation from becoming a serious one.

Hazards

- Unexpected movement of the load
- Stored energy in crane cable and rigging
- Struck by or caught between hazards
- Improperly positioned crane cable
- Entering the lifting area before it is safe

Words of Wisdom

When something unexpected changes during a lift, the safest next step isn't always the fastest one. Stop, communicate, reassess the condition, and make sure it is safe before proceeding.

Pause and Think

- What should you do when something unexpected happens during a lift?
- Have you confirmed that it is safe before approaching the load?
- Who should you communicate with before making a change to the lift?
- Could the cable or load move unexpectedly?
- Has the equipment or rigging been inspected before work resumes?

Closing Thought

Don't let the pressure to finish the job make you rush the next step. Stop, communicate, assess the hazard, and then proceed safely.



September 18 — When Something Doesn't Feel Right, Stop and Evaluate

While getting materials off the dock saw an employee get in a forklift and started to back up and in doing so he started to run into a steam line going to a steam heater. His ground guide was walking away.

I yelled and got his attention and told him to stop, he moved forward and his ground guide came back to help direct him.

Your Ground Guide Is There for a Reason

While materials were being moved from the dock, an employee got into a forklift and began backing up. As the forklift moved, it started heading toward a steam line leading to a steam heater. At the same time, the ground guide was walking away from the forklift.

The situation was stopped when the operator's attention was called to the approaching hazard. The forklift was moved forward, and the ground guide returned to help direct the equipment.

When operating mobile equipment in areas with limited visibility or nearby structures, the ground guide is an important part of the operation. The operator and ground guide need to stay in communication and maintain their positions until the maneuver is complete.

A ground guide walking away while the equipment is still moving can leave the operator without the assistance needed to identify hazards around the equipment.

Hazards

- Striking fixed structures or equipment
- Limited visibility while backing
- Loss of communication with the ground guide
- Pinch point and struck by hazards
- Damage to equipment or facility piping

Words of Wisdom

The ground guide and operator work as a team. When communication or visual contact is lost, the equipment needs to stop until that connection is restored.

Pause and Think

- Is your ground guide in position before you begin moving?
- Can the operator clearly see the ground guide?
- What should happen if the ground guide leaves the area?
- Are there pipes, equipment, or other hazards in the travel path?
- Are the operator and ground guide communicating throughout the entire maneuver?

Closing Thought

A ground guide can only protect you when they're in position. Stay connected, communicate clearly, and stop the equipment when the guide is no longer there.



September 21 - Secure the Load Before You Move It

Employees were changing out a roller on bc9 belt conveyor. This conveyor is in a tube with a slope to it. In the past employees did not secure the old roller once they took it out. It slid down the tube, through a door, and put a large hole in the wall where it stopped. Today we had a new (this week) employee on the job.	I first asked the new employee of the hazards on the job. He had all the right answers including moving equipment in the area, footing, and securing the heavy roller. (He heard the story) I then thanked his co-workers for pointing
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Know What Can Happen Before You Start

Employees were preparing to change out a roller on the BC9 belt conveyor. Because the conveyor is located inside a tube with a slope, there was a potential for the heavy roller to move unexpectedly once it was removed.

This hazard had caused a previous roller to slide down the tube, pass through a door, and create a large hole in the wall. With a new employee on the job, the hazards were reviewed before work continued.

The new employee was able to identify the hazards associated with the task, including moving equipment in the area, footing, and the importance of securing the heavy roller.

This is a great example of how sharing lessons learned can prevent the same incident from happening again. The employee's coworkers had already made sure he understood what had happened in the past, allowing him to recognize the hazard before beginning the work.

Hazards

- Heavy material moving unexpectedly
- Roller sliding on sloped surfaces
- Struck by hazards
- Pinch points
- Poor footing
- Damage to equipment or structures

Words of Wisdom

The best time to learn from a mistake is before you repeat it.

Pause and Think

- What could happen when the roller is removed?
- Is the material secured against unexpected movement?
- What hazards are created by the slope of the work area?
- Have you considered what is around and below the work area?
- Have coworkers shared previous incidents or lessons learned about the task?

Closing Thought

Experience doesn't have to come from your own mistake. Learn from what happened before, identify the hazards, and make sure the next job is safer because of it.



September 22 — Stay Inside the Cab

Employee carrying trash and cardboard with skid steer was trying to grab and toss the cardboard by leaning out of the cab with the bucket elevated. This put the employee well bent over and awkwardly leaning forward. Higher fall potential face first into steel or the ground.

Went over and suggested lowering the bucket and getting out, to sort the cardboard from the trash in the bucket.

Don't Put Yourself in the Line of Fire

An employee was using a skid steer to carry trash and cardboard. While the bucket was elevated, the employee attempted to reach out of the cab to grab and toss cardboard from the bucket.

This placed the employee in an awkward position, leaning well outside the cab with the bucket elevated. A fall from the cab could have resulted in the employee falling face-first onto the steel or to the ground.

The employee was advised to lower the bucket and exit the skid steer before sorting the cardboard from the trash.

Sometimes the safest solution is simply to stop, lower the equipment, and get into a position where the task can be completed safely. Taking a few extra seconds is better than trying to reach from an unsafe position.

Hazards

- Falling from the skid steer
- Elevated bucket
- Awkward body positioning
- Struck by hazards
- Potential fall onto steel or the ground
- Loss of balance while reaching

Words of Wisdom

A few extra seconds spent repositioning equipment is always better than putting your body in an unsafe position just to get the job done faster.

Pause and Think

- Is the bucket lowered before you leave or work around the equipment?
- Are you reaching outside the cab to complete a task?
- Could your position cause you to lose your balance?
- Is there a safer way to complete the task?
- Are you taking the extra time to put yourself in a safe working position?

Closing Thought

Don't let convenience put you in an awkward position. Lower the equipment, get into a safe position, and then finish the job.



September 23 — Protect Others from Flying Debris

2 people used the polisher with a wire disc to clean metal. When I saw them I realized that they did not put a red plastic that is in the workshop. Which serves to protect people passing by from the residue of wire that it drops. I told him to stop working and to put the plastic on.

They told me they wouldn't put that red plastic. They ignored it and continued to work.

Your Work Area Doesn't End Where Your Feet Stop

Two employees were using a polisher with a wire disc to clean metal. The red plastic barrier used in the workshop to protect people passing by from wire residue was not in place.

The employees were instructed to stop working and put up the barrier, but they refused and continued working without it.

The barrier was not simply a convenience—it was a control designed to protect people outside the immediate work area. The employees were instructed to stop and install the barrier, but they chose to continue working without it. This is an important reminder that when a required safety control is missing, the correct response is to stop the work and correct the condition. A routine task does not become acceptable simply because someone is willing to continue without the required protection.

The purpose of the barrier is to protect people who may be passing through the area from the residue produced by the wire disc. Even when the person operating the tool is wearing the proper PPE, people outside the immediate work area can still be exposed to flying debris.

Hazards

- Flying wire and metal debris
- Eye injuries to nearby employees
- Debris reaching people outside the immediate work area
- Inadequate work area protection
- Employees being exposed without warning

Words of Wisdom

Your PPE protects you, but it doesn't protect the person walking past your work area. Control the hazard at its source and protect everyone who could be exposed.

Pause and Think

- Could debris from your work reach someone outside your immediate work area?
- Is the required barrier or protection in place before you begin?
- Who could be exposed to your work?
- Does your PPE protect the people walking past your work area?
- What should you do if the required safety control isn't being used?

Closing Thought

Your responsibility doesn't stop with protecting yourself. Look beyond your work area and make sure the people around you are protected too.



September 24 — Barricade the Hazard

Night shift cut out handrail to set pipe. Did not put up proper barricade.	Stopped my guys that were working on that floor. Put up red tape at appropriate distance from area. Got with scaffolding and had a hard barricade installed.
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When the Barrier Is Gone, Replace It

During night shift, a handrail was cut out to allow pipe to be set. Once the handrail was removed, the area was no longer protected by the original guardrail system. A proper barricade had not been installed around the opening.

Employees working on the floor were stopped, and red tape was installed at an appropriate distance from the area. Scaffolding was then contacted, and a hard barricade was installed to provide a more permanent form of protection.

Removing a handrail changes the conditions of the work area. The protection that was there before the work began may no longer be there after the work starts. Anytime a guardrail or handrail is removed, the hazard needs to be addressed immediately.

Hazards

- Falls from an unprotected edge
- Employees entering the work area
- Inadequate protection after removing a handrail
- Increased exposure during night shift
- Serious injury from a fall

Words of Wisdom

When we remove a handrail or other form of protection, we also take on the responsibility of replacing that protection before someone is exposed to the hazard.

Pause and Think

- What happens to the area when a handrail is removed?
- Has the area been properly barricaded before work continues?
- Is the barricade far enough away to keep people out of the hazard area?
- Does the situation require a hard barricade?
- Could someone working nearby accidentally enter the area?

Closing Thought

A handrail protects people until the moment it is removed. Don't leave the hazard unprotected—stop, barricade, and make the area safe before continuing.



SHARP START



September 25 - Stay Out of the Pinch Point

Lifting megatex screens and cleaning underneath them. Severe pinch point potential.	Used pry bars and wedges to hold up screens while, air was used to clean out the tracks and screens.
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Control the Load Before You Work Around It

Employees were working on Megatex screens and needed to clean underneath them. The screens had to be lifted, creating a severe pinch-point potential for anyone working around or underneath them.

Instead of relying on someone to hold the screens in position, pry bars and wedges were used to secure and hold the screens up while compressed air was used to clean the tracks and screens.

When working around equipment that can move, shift, or fall, it is important to control that movement before placing yourself in the area. A screen that shifts unexpectedly can quickly trap or crush hands, arms, or other parts of the body.

Taking the time to properly support the equipment creates a safer work area and allows the task to be completed without putting employees in the line of fire.

Hazards

- Pinch point injuries
- Unexpected movement of screens
- Caught between hazards
- Crushing injuries
- Employees working beneath unsecured equipment

Words of Wisdom

Never rely on your hands, a coworker, or luck to keep equipment from moving. Properly support and secure the equipment before placing yourself near a pinch point.

Pause and Think

- What could happen if the screen shifted while you were underneath it?
- Is the equipment properly supported before you begin cleaning?
- Have you eliminated the pinch point or simply accepted it?
- Are you using the proper tools to hold equipment securely?
- Where would your hands or body be if the equipment moved unexpectedly?

Closing Thought

Don't put yourself between a person and a moving piece of equipment. Control the movement, eliminate the pinch point, and then do the work.



September 28 — Protect the Area Below

Coworkers chipping the floor a grating platform next, to the area , grating not covered up concrete debris falling to the level below, no barricade installed to alert coworkers...failure to cover grating and barricade area below from overhead work!! Line of fire!!	Talked to colleague's and had them clean up debris cover up grating and install danger barricade!!!
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Coworkers were chipping the floor on a grating platform next to the work area. The grating had not been covered, allowing concrete debris created by the chipping operation to fall through to the level below.

There was also no barricade installed around the area below to alert coworkers that overhead work was taking place. This meant that employees working or walking on the level below could potentially be exposed to falling concrete debris without knowing that work was happening directly above them.

The situation created a significant line-of-fire hazard. Falling concrete debris could strike someone below, potentially causing an eye injury, struck-by injury, or more serious injury depending on the size and location of the falling material.

The employee addressed the situation by talking with the coworkers performing the work. They were asked to clean up the debris, cover the grating, and install a danger barricade to protect the area below from the overhead work.

Overhead work requires us to think beyond the immediate task. It isn't enough to make sure the employees performing the work are protected—we also have to consider everyone who could be affected by what we are doing.

Don't Forget About What's Below You

When you're working from an elevated area, gravity doesn't care where your work area ends. Tools, concrete, pieces of material, and debris can all become hazards when they fall to a lower level.

Taking a few minutes to cover the grating and barricade the area below can prevent someone from unknowingly walking into a line-of-fire hazard. Protecting the people below is part of doing the job safely.

Hazards

- Falling concrete and debris
- Struck by hazards
- Eye injuries
- Lack of barricading
- Line of fire exposure
- Overhead work without proper communication

Words of Wisdom

When your work can send material to another level, the people below become part of your safety responsibility. Protect them just as carefully as you protect yourself.

Pause and Think

- What could fall through the grating while you're working?
- Is the area below protected before overhead work begins?
- Have you covered openings or grating where debris could fall through?
- Is the area below properly barricaded?
- Do employees below know that overhead work is taking place?

Closing Thought

Overhead work doesn't just create hazards for the people doing the work. Before you start, look below, protect the area, communicate the hazard, and make sure everyone who could be affected by your work is protected.

See Something • Say Something • Do Something



SHARP START



September 29 — Never Park on the Tracks

Vehicle, with two contractors inside, was parked in the middle of the tracks, right next to flashing red lights, while rail cars were being moved in its direction.

I pointed out to them the flashing lights and how you don't park on tracks without an encroachment permit.

A vehicle with two contractors inside was parked in the middle of the railroad tracks, directly next to flashing red warning lights. At the same time, rail cars were being moved in the direction of the vehicle.

The flashing red lights were an indication that rail traffic was active in the area, yet the vehicle remained parked on the tracks. With two contractors inside the vehicle and rail cars moving toward them, this created a serious rail encroachment and struck-by hazard.

Warning systems are there to get our attention before we enter a hazardous area. In this case, the flashing red lights were already communicating that rail activity was occurring, yet the vehicle was still sitting on the tracks. We cannot become so familiar with an area that we stop recognizing the warnings around us. When a warning signal tells you to stay clear, take it seriously and get out of the danger zone.

Before driving or parking near railroad tracks, make sure you understand the site requirements and know whether an encroachment permit is required.

Hazards

- Rail car movement
- Struck by hazards
- Vehicle/rail collision
- Rail encroachment
- Limited escape options
- Failure to recognize warning signals

Words of Wisdom

Rail tracks are an active work area, not a place to wait or park. Respect the warning signals, follow the encroachment requirements, and always give moving rail equipment the space it needs.

Pause and Think

- Are you aware of the rail traffic around your work area?
- What do flashing red warning lights tell you?
- Are you parked or working within the required distance from the tracks?
- Do you have the proper encroachment permit when one is required?
- If rail cars begin moving, do you have a clear way to get out of the area?

Closing Thought

Never become so comfortable around railroad tracks that you forget what can happen when a train starts moving. Pay attention to the warning signals, follow the site requirements, and always give moving rail equipment the space it needs.

See Something • Say Something • Do Something



September 30 — Keep Both Hands on the Tool

Co worker was using a grinder with one hand and holding the pipe with the other

He put the pipe in a tripod vice and used both hands on the grinder

A coworker was using a grinder to work on a piece of pipe. While operating the grinder with one hand, he was using his other hand to hold the pipe in place.

This created an unsafe working position. Holding the pipe by hand while operating the grinder leaves the employee trying to control both the material and the tool at the same time. If the grinder kicked back, caught the material, or the pipe shifted unexpectedly, the employee's hand could have been exposed directly to the grinder or other hazards.

The employee was shown a safer way to perform the task. The pipe was placed into a **tripod vise**, securing the material so the employee could use **both hands on the grinder**.

This simple change provided better control of the tool and removed the employee's hand from the immediate work area.

Secure the Material Before You Grind

When using a grinder, your attention needs to be on controlling the tool. Holding the material with your free hand may seem like the quickest way to get the job done, but it puts your hand directly in the potential line of fire.

Using a vise or other appropriate method to secure the material allows you to maintain control of the grinder with both hands.

Don't use one hand to hold the work when the other hand is holding the hazard.

Hazards

- Grinder kickback
- Hand and finger injuries
- Loss of control of the grinder
- Material shifting during grinding
- Flying sparks and debris
- Improper work positioning

Words of Wisdom

Your hands should never have to compete with the tool you're operating for the same piece of material. Secure the workpiece first, then use both hands to maintain control of the tool.

Pause and Think

- Is the material securely held before you start grinding?
- Are you trying to hold the material with one hand while operating the tool with the other?
- What could happen if the grinder kicks back?
- Can a vise or other securing method eliminate the need to hold the material?
- Do you have both hands available to properly control the grinder?

Closing Thought

Your hands should control the tool—not hold the material in its path. Take the extra moment to secure your workpiece, then use both hands to control the grinder safely.