



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
---	---

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.