



# SHARP START



## March 23 — Half Protected Is Not Protected

A barricade was placed on only one side of a hazard area and was not completed. Other workers walked under the area unaware that a danger was present.

Put up barricades all the way around so people know

A barricade was installed to control a hazard — but only on one side. From one direction, the area looked restricted. From another, it was completely open. Workers entered the space unaware that overhead or active hazards were present.

If it's worth barricading, it's worth finishing. Controls must work from every direction. Incomplete barriers invite exposure.

Barricades are meant to define boundaries clearly and consistently. When they are incomplete, they create confusion. A control that works from one angle and fails from another is not a control it's a false sense of security.

Hazards don't care about direction of approach. Falling objects, active work, or suspended loads don't adjust based on where someone enters.

This wasn't about not knowing a barricade was needed. It was about stopping halfway.

And partial protection still leaves exposure.

### Hazards

- Struck-by from falling objects
- Unauthorized entry into hazard zone
- Line-of-fire exposure
- Secondary injury from confusion
- Inadequate communication of risk

### Stats

- Struck-by incidents remain a leading cause of serious injury in industrial environments.
- Inadequate hazard communication is a frequent contributing factor in line-of-fire incidents.
- Many injuries occur when workers unknowingly enter active work areas.
- Engineering and administrative controls must be complete to be effective.

### Humans at Work

Most incomplete work does not come from bad intent. It comes from fatigue and rushing. When we are tired, our standards quietly drop. When we feel pressure to move fast, we start thinking in shortcuts. "This side is good enough." "We will finish it in a minute."

That is how partial protection happens. Not because we do not care. Because we are worn down or trying to keep pace. But hazards do not adjust for how tired we are or how fast we need to move. A control that is only half in place leaves full exposure.

When we are fatigued or in a hurry, that is exactly when we need to slow down long enough to finish the control completely.

### Pause and Think

- Are you finishing the control or just starting it
- Are you moving fast because it is needed or because it feels urgent
- If you walked away right now, would the area still be fully protected.