



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.