SHARP START

March 31 — Outside the Line

Objects fell outside of barricade from floor above. Went up to floor and let the workers know they had hard objects falling outside of the barricaded area

Widened the barricaded area below.

An object fell from an upper level and landed outside the barricaded area below. The crew above believed their drop zone was controlled. It wasn't.

> Barricades must match the hazard not the guess.
> Always assume objects can travel farther than expected.

Barricades are only effective if they match the actual hazard footprint. When objects fall outside the marked area, it means the risk assessment was incomplete — either the drop radius wasn't calculated properly or work positioning changed.

Gravity doesn't respect tape lines.

Falling objects don't always drop straight down. They bounce. They deflect off structure. They clear edges. A controlled zone that is too small creates a false sense of security for anyone walking nearby.

This wasn't about someone intentionally ignoring controls. It was about recognizing that the protection didn't match the exposure and correcting it before someone got hurt.

The difference between a near miss and a fatality can be a few feet of tape.

Hazards

- Struck-by injury from falling objects
- Head trauma
- Fractures
- Secondary fall due to impact
- False sense of security from incomplete barricade

Stats

- Struck-by incidents remain a leading cause of serious injury in industrial environments.
- Dropped-object incidents frequently involve miscalculated exclusion zones.
- Hard objects falling from elevation significantly increase injury severity.
- Many struck-by injuries occur outside the originally planned barricade area.

Humans at Work

We assess hazards at the beginning of a task. We talk through the plan. We set the boundary. And then we move on. That's where reassessment fatigue sets in. Once the control is in place, we mentally check the box and stop questioning it.

At the same time, we start trusting the control more than the hazard. "We put tape up. It's handled." That's optimism in controls. The problem is, controls only work if they match the actual risk. When conditions shift, when positioning changes, when objects bounce or deflect, the boundary has to shift too.

The lesson is simple. Controls are not permanent. They are decisions that must be re-evaluated. Just because protection was put in place does not mean it is still adequate. Hope is not a safety margin.

Pause and Think

- Has anything changed since the plan was set?
- Are you trusting the control or verifying the hazards?