



July 20 — Your Work Area Is Bigger Than You Think

No barricade around tanks. Iron workers dropped tape measures and sockets from 2nd or 3rd floor and wind kicked up wood and fell through the tank hole. Along with other trades pushing water towards sleeves and hole penetrations causing water to fall down onto workers on lower floors.	A-Lert safety was notified of issue, and barricades were put in place
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The hazards you create may not affect you...

They may affect the person working below you.

While work was taking place around open tank areas, several hazards developed at the same time. Tools were accidentally dropped from upper levels, strong winds carried loose debris through floor openings, and water from another trade flowed through penetrations onto employees working below.

Individually, each issue may have seemed minor. Together, they created a work environment where employees below were exposed to hazards they had little control over.

One of the biggest challenges on multi-contractor jobs is remembering that your work doesn't happen in isolation. Every task has the potential to affect someone working nearby, below, or even in another area of the project. Before starting work, it's important to ask not only, **"Is my work area safe?"** but also, **"Who else could be affected by what I'm doing?"**

Hazards

- Dropped objects
- Struck-by hazards
- Open floor and tank penetrations
- Falling debris
- Water creating slip hazards below
- Lack of barricades and work coordination

Words of Wisdom

Always look beyond your immediate task. A safe work area protects not only the people doing the work, but everyone who could be affected by it.

Pause and Think

- Who could be affected by the work you're performing today?
- What steps can you take to protect employees working below or nearby?
- How do barricades help protect people who aren't directly involved in your task?
- Have you ever been exposed to hazards created by another crew?
- What can different trades do to improve communication and coordination on shared job sites?

Closing Thought

Safety doesn't end at the edge of your work area. Think beyond your task, protect those around you, and remember that every crew shares responsibility for a safe jobsite.