



April 13 — What's Left Behind

When we removed the guards around the dryers the remaining anchor bolts became trip hazards	Installed yellow tape around all the anchor bolts so they became visible to all the employees working in the area and added it to our placards on the red tape around the location
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After guards were removed from the dryers, the anchor bolts that once sat underneath were left exposed.

They didn't move. They didn't change. But the environment around them did.

What used to be covered and protected became something sticking up in a walking path. Something easy to miss if you weren't looking directly at it.

Nothing happened. No trip. No fall.

But that's how these hazards exist quietly, waiting for the moment someone isn't paying attention.

The work was done. The guards were removed.

But the hazard didn't leave with them.

This wasn't about something being broken. It was about something being left behind.

Hazards

- Trip hazard from exposed bolts
- Slip, trip, and fall injuries
- Loss of balance in active work areas
- Secondary injury from falling into nearby equipment
- Reduced visibility of low-profile hazards

Stats

- Slips, trips, and falls are among the most common workplace injuries
- Many fall-related injuries occur due to poor housekeeping or changing conditions
- Low-profile hazards (like bolts or uneven surfaces) are frequently overlooked
- A large percentage of incidents occur during routine movement through work areas

Words of Wisdom

- If the job changes, the hazards change
- What's left behind can hurt just as much as what's in front of you
- A clean area is a controlled area

Pause and Think

Work areas don't stay the same. Every task removing, installing, modifying changes something.

But it's easy to move on once the job is done, assuming the area is still safe.

That's where hazards get missed.

Not because they weren't there but because they weren't there *before*.

Taking a moment to look back at what changed can prevent someone else from getting caught off guard.

- What did this job expose or leave behind?
- Could someone walking through miss this hazard?
- Have I made new hazards visible or controlled?
- Am I assuming the area is the same as before?