



September 28 — Protect the Area Below

Coworkers chipping the floor a grating platform next, to the area , grating not covered up concrete debris falling to the level below, no barricade installed to alert coworkers...failure to cover grating and barricade area below from overhead work!! Line of fire!!	Talked to colleague's and had them clean up debris cover up grating and install danger barricade!!!
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Coworkers were chipping the floor on a grating platform next to the work area. The grating had not been covered, allowing concrete debris created by the chipping operation to fall through to the level below.

There was also no barricade installed around the area below to alert coworkers that overhead work was taking place. This meant that employees working or walking on the level below could potentially be exposed to falling concrete debris without knowing that work was happening directly above them.

The situation created a significant line-of-fire hazard. Falling concrete debris could strike someone below, potentially causing an eye injury, struck-by injury, or more serious injury depending on the size and location of the falling material.

The employee addressed the situation by talking with the coworkers performing the work. They were asked to clean up the debris, cover the grating, and install a danger barricade to protect the area below from the overhead work.

Overhead work requires us to think beyond the immediate task. It isn't enough to make sure the employees performing the work are protected—we also have to consider everyone who could be affected by what we are doing.

Don't Forget About What's Below You

When you're working from an elevated area, gravity doesn't care where your work area ends. Tools, concrete, pieces of material, and debris can all become hazards when they fall to a lower level.

Taking a few minutes to cover the grating and barricade the area below can prevent someone from unknowingly walking into a line-of-fire hazard. Protecting the people below is part of doing the job safely.

Hazards

- Falling concrete and debris
- Struck by hazards
- Eye injuries
- Lack of barricading
- Line of fire exposure
- Overhead work without proper communication

Words of Wisdom

When your work can send material to another level, the people below become part of your safety responsibility. Protect them just as carefully as you protect yourself.

Pause and Think

- What could fall through the grating while you're working?
- Is the area below protected before overhead work begins?
- Have you covered openings or grating where debris could fall through?
- Is the area below properly barricaded?
- Do employees below know that overhead work is taking place?

Closing Thought

Overhead work doesn't just create hazards for the people doing the work. Before you start, look below, protect the area, communicate the hazard, and make sure everyone who could be affected by your work is protected.

See Something • Say Something • Do Something