



Falling Object – Incorrect Tethering

Incident Description: On 1/29/2015, Two GBI employees were removing a 3 foot by 3 foot section of roof plate for a ladder/gauge pole access door. The employees welded a nut onto the sheet and secured the sheet with a rope to the handrail. Upon making the final cut, the sheet dropped into the opening and the rope was cut by the sharp edge around the cutout. This caused the sheet to fall approximately 50 feet to the deck below. Before work started the supervisor informed the entire crew of the activities and had cleared and protected the area below the work.



Lessons Learned:

- ✓ The Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) should address the appropriate material when tethering or supporting a load.
- ✓ Use of a crane to support or suspend the load should be considered with larger items.

Immediate Observations:

- ✓ The wrong method was used to secure the sheet.
- ✓ Never use nylon straps or rope around sharp/hot surfaces.
- ✓ Confirm attachment points will hold the intended loads.
- ✓ Anytime overhead work is conducted verify the area below is properly barricaded and no one is in harm's way.

Safety Performance Tool to Prevent Future Occurrence: Pre-Planning

When Pre-Planning Think SAFER

- ✓ Summarize critical tasks
- ✓ Anticipates where errors could be made during task
- ✓ Foresee worst-case consequences
- ✓ Evaluate methods to prevent errors and consequences
- ✓ Review methods and tools to be used to complete the task