

# Discussion Guide – Maintenance Technician Exposed to Fall Hazard



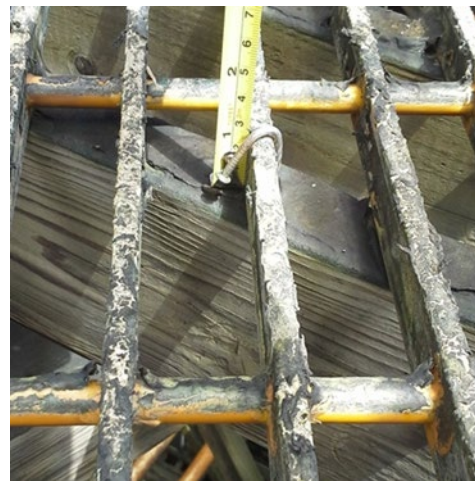
## Instructions:

This scenario can be used as a safety moment for any team but is primarily focused on hot work near live equipment. As the facilitator of the discussion, it is recommended that you pass out copies of this discussion guide. Have the team members read the scenario, then you lead the discussion. The objective is to engage your team to explore the hazard and develop actions for your team to reduce the risk.

## Scenario

A maintenance technician was preparing to perform work inside a cooling tower shroud on a fixed platform. He was working off gratings fastened to the timber structure inside the tower. One of the grating sections moved but did not fall.

**Q: What would you have done in this situation? Why?**



## What happened next?

Work continued. The technician stepped onto the grating. It slid and dropped 60 feet to the ground, leaving an opening in the working surface. The technician did not fall through the hole but could have been killed if he had.

**Q: Do you have other stories like this?**

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## **Why did this happen?**

- The design and fastening of the grating to the structure inside the shroud was not adequate, and may never have been adequate. Only nails were present in some places on the grating. Inspection scopes have not included grating security.
- Work was not stopped when the grating moved
- Unsecured grating while working inside the shroud was not perceived to be a hazard by anyone, including leadership.

**Q: What are the standards for managing gratings at your site? Are they enough?**

**Q: What do you do to help people spot hazards and stop the job?**

## **Ideas for Follow-up**

- Conduct a survey of grating in your work area. Barricade any unsafe areas and put in a maintenance work order to repair any unsafe grating
- Check your inspection requirements for completed projects and make sure they include an inspection of grating.

**Q: What other actions might help to manage this risk where you work?**