

# SAFETY FLASH

## *Incident Name:*

C-SRU Turnaround – Thermal Oxidizer – TIG Employee Fell From Elevated Work Area.

## *Incident Consequence (Actual Disposition):*

Lost Workday Case – Fracture ® Ankle

*Impact Number:* 38100

## *Incident Description:*

On March 31, 2009, a Turner Industries Group L.L.C. (TIG) scaffold crew was erecting a hanging scaffold 9' above ground level at the C-SRU Thermal Oxidizer header. The injured employee had placed a 2' horizontal to a beam in order to fill an opening in the work deck. As the employee began to transition himself from a seating to standing position, he lost his balance and fell to ground level (feet first). As he landed, his right foot contacted a stack of filler boards (plywood) that was located immediately below his position. As a result of the incident, the employee suffered a fractured ankle. Based on the injury severity, the employee has not yet been released to return to work.

## Initial Findings:

- While the employee was wearing personal fall protective equipment at the time of the incident, his anchorage point was at a height that was inadequate to prevent contact with fixed objects below him.
- The employee failed to recognize that his method used to position himself to a lower level (beam 53" below), would potentially cause him to overextend his body and subsequently cause a loss of balance.

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## Reminders/Learnings:

- Ensure JSA's identify specific fall and body positioning with appropriate safety control measures.
- Stress the importance of group accountability and be proactive in stopping an unsafe act or condition when they are observed.
- Evaluate each work area when conducting a pre-task JSA to ensure the work environment is conducive to a safe work position, and that the JSA is specific to the activity being conducted for employees assigned to perform a task.