What happened?

While performing a routine scaffolding activity, a scaffolding crew inadvertently dropped a 2" X 4" board weighing 5.6 pounds while staging near a handrail on the Generator Module Upper Deck (GMUD). The worker was staging the board when it dropped through the handrail opening falling approximately 40 feet below to the Generator Module Lower Deck (GMLD) landing in an egress walkway. There were no personnel present in the area at the time of the incident.

What went wrong?

There was potential for personnel to be in the Generator Module Lower Deck (GMLD) location because of no barricades being in place.

Why did it happen?

- Inadequate process in place for assessing hazards and re-validating JSA when crew moves to a new job site.
- Contractor Procedure does not clearly state how Leader Man for Scaffold crew transition oversight roles.
- Consequences of staging material near hand rails not recognized.

What areas were identified for improvement?

- Incorporate hazard review procedure for Scaffold Crews. This review will be performed prior to starting work at each job site and will be documented on the Revalidation sheet of the Work pack.
- Establish expectation across organization that the assigned operation representative will inspect every scaffolding construction and demolition location that requires working at heights or some other high risk activity and complete Pre-Work Checks and Verifications for each location.
- Revise company policy to reflect the following: (1) Prohibit stacking material next to handrails unless deemed absolutely necessary by onsite supervision. (2) If deemed necessary, the policy will reflect a list of mitigations that must be met before staging is allowed.