

## **ABATED WATERFRONT TOWER FALL HAZARD**

Maintenance workers at Naval Weapons Station (NWS), Charleston, South Carolina used to be required to work, periodically, on a tower that is located on a platform over a body of water with a strong current. The tower platform was not equipped with guardrails to prevent workers from falling off the platform and into the water.

The tower is a part of a lightening protection system that protects Navy ships from being struck by lightening while ammunition is being loaded onto and unloaded from them. The tower also has floodlights that light up the area during night operations.

Workers use the platform to gain access to the lightening protection and floodlight systems. These workers were at risk of falling into the swift flowing water until the NWS Safety Office requested and received Occupational

Safety and Health Hazard Abatement funds from the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) for a project to install guardrails on the tower platform to protect workers from the risk of falling into the water. Funding was approved, and guardrails were installed on the tower platform.



**View showing access to tower base at NWS Charleston**