LIGHT CHANGING PLATFORMS

***Problem*:** As high bay lights burnt out, maintenance was required to replace them to provide adequate area lighting. Machinery and other obstructions on the mill floor would not allow proper access to the lights via aerial manlifts. Workers would then climb onto overhead crane trolleys with limited fall protection creating a potential fall hazard.

Solution: Proper area lighting is essential for a safe and healthy work environment, not to mention, it is also required by law. As lighting begins to fail, so does safety, production levels, and employee well-being.

For one of our clients, the "simple" task of changing a light bulb was very complicated. First, an area on the mill floor would need to be cleared. Second, an aerial manlift would need to be located. This would sometime require renting a special piece of equipment due to the configuration of the area. Next, production would sometimes be required to stop because of the aerial manlift placement, and finally, the light would be accessed and replaced. In several buildings, aerial manlift access would not work due to equipment and other obstructions on the mill floor. Workers would then use the overhead building cranes to access the lights. This created safety hazards since the crane trolleys were not designed with adequate fall protection tie-off points and building trusses could not be used as anchor points because they were out of reach. Many times the crane would be the preferred option to eliminate the production interruptions.

PTS was asked to devise a way to change light bulbs in a safe and effective manner. After reviewing the task and all hazards associated with it, light changing platforms were decided to be the best way to access lights. As an added benefit, the light changing platforms were designed to ride the same rails as the crane trolley. These platforms included a swing gate used to enter the platform and standard OSHA compliant handrails. The platforms move along with the crane trolley to access the different rows of lights.

Safety alone was enough justification for this project. The time saved by maintenance and the reduced impact on production was icing on the cake!