

Aerial work platform accidents

Lift Equipment February 1997

Port Huron, Mich. – A city worker was killed when a tractor-trailer hit the bucket truck he was in. The worker was repairing a traffic light in the right lane. The tractor-trailer traveling by in the left lane hit the boom as it was being lowered. A preliminary investigation indicated that the worker was not wearing fall protection equipment and that no traffic directional signals had been used.

Clements, Ala. – An electric company worker received second-degree burns over 60 percent of his body when the bucket of his truck became entangled in power lines. According to the worker's supervisor, the primary line and a ground line connected and ignited the equipment.

Westminster, Md. – Two painters died after being tossed from the buckets of a truck-mounted aerial lift. According to police, a cable on the lift snapped, causing the workers to be thrown from the buckets.

Philadelphia, Pa. – Eastbound lanes of a bridge were shut down when an underbridge inspection machine tipped over. The operator was unhurt after dangling from the bucket. Wearing a safety harness, he climbed from the bucket and scaled the girders of the bridge to safety.

Richlands, VA – Two workers were injured—one seriously—when the scissor lift they were operating on a construction site toppled. While lowering the platform, it got caught on duct work being installed in a new building. The lift was set up on a slanted floor. As it continued to retract, the lift fell over.

Minneapolis, MN – A worker, repairing a bridge located above train tracks, was killed when the boom lift he was in was struck by a train. Previously, workers were called by a railroad dispatcher was in route. In this instance, the crew never received a warning call. The worker did not have enough time to move the lift after the engineer sounded the train's horn.

Crosset, AR – A construction worker was driving a work platform when it flipped over, pinning him underneath. The worker suffered a broken leg.

Levittown-Bristol, PA – A mall construction worker died after being crushed by a transformer he was attempting to move. The worker was elevated about 20 feet in a scissor lift. According to an OSHA investigator, the scissor lift toppled as the transformer fell.

Marysville, OH – A vocational school student was killed at an automobile manufacturing plant when a 1,000-pound lift fell on him. The student and another electrician trainee were installing computer lines at the time of the accident. According to the owner of the electric company, the students were moving the equipment when it hit an overhead conveyor belt

Lift Equipment – June/July 1997

Phoenix, Ariz. – A state transportation worker was killed when a tractor-trailer truck collided with the bucket truck the worker was in. The man was crushed between the bucket and a traffic light he was painting. The collision caused the bucket to be sheared from the boom. An initial investigation was sought to determine the position of the bucket and whether the nearby land should have been closed to

traffic. A spokesperson for the Arizona Department of Transportation said the ADOT would review safety practices in the wake of the accident.

Five days after the accident, a funeral procession for the worker included more than 100 ADOT vehicles.

Murray, Ky. – An electric company employee was killed when he came in contact with an energized power line while installing a transformer. The man was working in the bucket of an aerial lift when the guide wire came into contact with the power line.

Coconut Creek, Fla. – A tree trimmer died when the bucket of the articulated boom aerial lift he was in fell to the ground. According to officials, cables on the boom snapped while the bucket was extended 20 to 30 feet.

Los Angeles, Calif. – An aerial lift, set up along the shoulder of a road, tipped when outriggers sank into soft soil. No one was injured.

Knoxville, Tenn. – An electrical worker escaped injury when the aerial lift he was in caught on fire. The man was installing insulation on power lines when the bucket touched an energized line. Controls became inoperable when the bucket was engulfed in flames, so the worker climbed from the bucket and shinned down the boom.

North Richland Hills, Texas – Two men were killed when they fell 40 feet from the platform of a raised lift. The men were securing a cable at a golf driving range when the platform inexplicably plummeted.

Location unknown – A worker cleaning, replacing, and caulking brick fell about 37 feet from the platform of a boom lift while moving the machine. The boom was fully extended, and the machine apparently ran over some bricks. This caused the boom to flex, throwing the employee from it. Accident prevention recommendations, according to OSHA, are that the employer must:

1. Have a competent person conduct inspections 1926.20(b)(2).
2. Permit only qualified employees to operate equipment 1926.20(b)(4).
3. Instruct employees to recognize unsafe conditions and appropriate regulations 1926.20(b)(2)(ii).
4. Prohibit unauthorized people from operating aerial lifts 1926.556(b)(2)(ii).
5. Require a body belt and lanyard at all times while in this type of device 1926.556(b)(2)(v).

Mount Vernon, Ind. – A construction worker died after the aerial work platform he was loading onto a trailer fell on him. Slippery conditions contributed to the accident, as there was snow on top of the trailer. The machine slid off the side of the trailer as the worker was loading it and it crushed him.

Blueridge, Alberta – An industrial worker died when she fell from the platform of a scissor lift. The worker was blowing dust from the walls of a building. At the time of the accident, the scissor lift was situated near a fiberboard press. When the press was activated, a rod on the press caught the upper part of the platforms guardrail. The platform collapsed when it was forcibly extended.

Newton, Conn. – A construction worker in a telescopic boom lift became stranded when the lift tilted, but did not tip over. Firefighters placed cribbing under the machine to stabilize it, then extended a fire truck ladder to the man, who climbed down.

Lift Equipment – August 1998

Brazil, Ind. – A masonry worker was seriously injured when the bucket of the aerial he was working in broke. “I heard a large breaking sound and fell 50 feet in two seconds,” said the worker. “The impact of the drop slammed me onto the floor of the basket and when it stopped it tossed me back up into the air and I fell to the bottom again.”

When the bucket stopped, it was still suspended in the air. Other workers removed the injured man with another basket supported from a crane being used at a nearby construction site.

The worker sustained a broken lumbar vertebrae and a severely compressed spine in the accident.

Wright Township, Pa. – A man repairing a traffic signal was thrown from his aerial lift when it was hit by a tractor-trailer. The worker landed on top of the moving truck which carried him about 150-feet before the driver pulled to the side of the road.

The worker suffered a dislocated shoulder and internal bleeding.

The Police Chief explained the truck came through the intersection and the corner of the trailer hit the bucket.

Orange highway cones had been placed near the job site, but the worker did not have flags or “crew working” signs posted.

The township usually posts police at the intersection for additional protection while workers make adjustments to the lights. No officer was there the day of the accident because the workers had not notified officials of the planned work.

Arlington, Mass. – An architect was waiting for a telescopic boom lift to take him up to the spire of a church to take photographs.

According to reports, the architect was harnessed and ready to get in when the hydraulics on the telescoping boom released and the platform came down, pinning him to the ground. The accident victim sustained injuries to his pelvic and lower abdomen area.

Lift Equipment – September 1998

Hanover, Pa. – A cable TV installation worker fell from his truck-mounted aerial. He said he is not entirely sure what happened.

“I remember being in the bucket,” says the worker. “Then I remember being on the ground.”

The worker was installing TV cable near an intersection when he was injured. The worker’s foreman said: “He was jumping around there like he’d been hit by some power. Then, he jumped out of the bucket, rolled down the boom and hit his head on the road.”

West Nyack, N.Y. – A worker hanging on an outdoor sign at a mall was seriously injured when he fell from the bucket of his truck-mounted aerial. It is reported that the bucket broke and the man fell 50 feet to cement. The worker suffered severe head and neck trauma. OSHA has been called in to investigate.

Port Charlotte, Fla. – A landscaper was electrocuted after a truck-mounted aerial he was working near came into contact with overhead lines. Another worker was lowering himself when the truck’s weight shifted and the boom touched the lines. The man in the bucket, which was about seven feet from the ground, leapt from it when he heard a loud sound. The truck caught fire and when the man who was near the truck touched it he was killed by more than 13,000 volts of electricity. The man who jumped from the bucket sustained a minor knee injury.

Lift Equipment – January 1999

Hubbardston, Maine – Tree service employees had set up on a customer's property. One of the employees extended the boom 40 feet while the other worked on the ground. The employee on the ground noticed flames coming from the base of the boom and called for help. The flames quickly spread part way up the extended boom. The flames also spread into the truck's interior and ignited several cans of gasoline on the truck. The flames made it impossible for the employee on the ground to reach the controls.

According to the police officer on scene, the worker in the bucket wasn't in danger of being burned, but he was unable to operate the boom as heavy smoke wafted toward him.

The two police officers arrived before firefighters and tried to use a ladder to reach the man, but the ladder was too short.

About ten minutes after the officers arrived, the hydraulic lines failed and the boom crashed to the ground. The officers helped the worker out of the bucket. He declined medical attention.

Investigators think the fire resulted from a possible ruptured hydraulic hose which allowed oil to ignite on a hot muffler. It was also brought to the fire department's attention that the same truck's boom had gotten stuck in the raised position a week earlier than the accident and the worker had to use a rope to rappel off the device.

Lake Wales, Fla. – A truck mounted aerial lift caught fire. It is believed tree limbs and trash in the truck were ignited by hot exhaust. No one was injured.

Lift Equipment February 1999

Tallahassee, Fla. – A telephone worker was killed after being trapped 20 feet in the air when his truck mounted aerial lift caught fire.

The employee was working alone when the lift caught fire and he was unable to lower the boom.

From the bucket, the worker called 911 and other employees that might have been in the area for help.

The flames caught the telephone pole on fire and spread to nearby brush burning about half an acre.

According to a co-worker, the man involved in the accident may have thought that since the fiberglass bucket was fireproof, he was safe staying in it.

Carrollton, Ga. – A worker suffered second and third degree burns when his shirt caught fire while working on electrical lines. The worker was installing new lines from a truck mounted aerial lift when the accident occurred.

"Somehow, one of the lines became pinched with a hydraulic line from the bucket truck," said the county fire rescue chief. "The electrical line arced, burning a hole in the hydraulic line."

The burn caused the hydraulic line to burst, spraying fluid, which was ignited by the electrical line.

The liquid fire swept over the back of the worker's shirt, setting the cloth on fire.

"It effectively became a blowtorch," said the rescue chief.

The worker yelled for the crew on the ground to lower him from the pole. In attempt to get away from the flames, the worker jumped from the bucket. Because of his safety harness, the worker didn't fall to the ground. The crew on the ground lowered the worker to the ground where they administered first aid and waited for emergency crews to arrive.

Alton, Ill. – A man was working on the exterior of a steel plant when the boom of the aerial work platform he was working in seemed to malfunction, according to reports. The boom fell several feet before stopping. The man was slammed against the guard rail, but because of a safety harness wasn't thrown from the machine. The worker sustained facial injuries.

A preliminary investigation seemed to indicate that a hydraulic cylinder failed on the lift causing the boom to shift suddenly.

Greensburg, Pa. – A man using a high-pressure hose to wash the outside of a bank was electrocuted when the boom from his truck mounted aerial touched power lines. Power was interrupted to parts of the surrounding community for several hours following the accident. The worker was killed instantly, said officials.

Coydon, Ind. – A landscape worker died after attempting to get into the bucket of a truck-mounted aerial to trim tree limbs. According to a spokesperson, the worker either fell and hit his head on the truck or on the pavement.

Sudbury, Ontario – A miner was killed by falling rock while working from a scissor lift in a mine at the 1,615-meter level. The worker was installing rock bolts and screening, used to keep loose rocks from falling, when he was killed.

Lift Equipment – March 1999

Rome, N.Y. –The operator of a truck mounted aerial lift suffered back pain after the machine was struck by a backing tractor-trailer.

Baltimore, Md. – One worker was killed and another injured after falling 80 feet from an aerial work platform. A third employee, who was working on the ground near the lift, was also injured. According to police and fire officials, the two men were in the lift preparing to paint the side shell of a barge in the ship yard's docks when a hydraulic cylinder broke, turning the platform upside down. One of the workers was wearing a safety belt but it slipped to his leg and he dangled over the floor of the dock. The other worker wasn't wearing a belt, but held onto an air hose. The man on the ground who saw the accident ran under the lift and broke the fall of the man hanging from the air hose. The safety belt on the other man slipped from his leg and he fell to his death. OSHA is investigating the accident.

Clearwater, Fla. – A worker was killed while trimming a 25-foot palm tree that passed through six 7,200-volt power lines. The operator was using a rented aerial to perform the work when his head came into contact with the lines. "He took a tremendous jolt from head to toe." Said Clearwater's fire lieutenant. "It was unsurvivable."

Lift Equipment – April 1999

Baton Rouge, La. – Two contract workers fell about 40 feet while tying down pipes at a chemical plant. The men were working from a self-propelled aerial work platform when the platform detached from the boom. One of the workers was killed in the accident, which is still under investigation.

Arlington, Minn. – An accident occurred when a truck-mounted aerial work platform was backed into the street by a utility worker. The truck hit an oncoming vehicle. No injuries were reported.

Danville, N.H. – A telephone company lineman fell out of a truck-mounted aerial work platform and fell to the grass 18 feet below. He suffered a broken back and leg resulting in some paralysis. According to the telephone company spokesman, linemen are supposed to wear safety belts to help prevent falls. They are unsure if the injured worker was wearing a safety belt.

York, Pa. – Two men were injured while dismantling a brick wall from an articulated-boom self-propelled aerial work platform. The workers were using a crowbar and hammer to pry bricks from the dilapidated wall when it gave way.

After the collapse, the aerial lift was partially buried in brick and wood. The battered workers were in the platform, which was still more than 20 feet above the ground.

Once rescue workers arrived on the site, the men, who were not wearing hard hats or shirts were led down a ladder resting on a section of the wall that had not yet collapsed.

Both men were treated for multiple scrapes and cuts and then released.

Baltimore, Md. – City workers were installing a police surveillance camera on a 28-foot pole near the northbound tracks of the city's light rail system. The truck-mounted aerial work platform lurched forward and slammed into the passing light rail train.

One of the train's passengers said he believed the pantograph-the extendible arm that links over the top of the train to the overhead power lines-clipped the bucket, dragging the truck into the passing train. The impact of the aerial lift was enough to de-rail the 20-ton light rail. The front of the truck was wedged into one of the train's coupling points, folding the hood, engine, and windshield into the front seat.

Several passengers about the train complained of neck and back injuries. One city employee either fell or jumped from the boom, which was elevated approximately six feet. Another city worker was injured when he was hit by the rolling vehicle.

Police said they were looking at the vehicle's brakes to see if they were properly set or had suffered a mechanical failure.

The accident cause part of the rail line to be closed for 2 ½ hours and tied up traffic and bus lines.

Fond Du Lac, Wis. – A man installing a sign was shocked by a 7,200-volt line. The worker was about 25 feet off the ground when he was shocked. Rescue workers used the man's ladder to reach the bucket of his truck-mounted aerial, which couldn't be lowered because the power surge affected the truck's controls. Following the accident, the man was listed in good condition.

Holyoke, Ma. – A painter avoided injury when he grabbed onto a high-tension electrical wire as his truck-mounted aerial began to tip.

The worker, who was painting a building, said he simple stepped out of the bucket and held onto the wire.

"I was in the bucket, but I didn't want to stay in it," said the painter. "I didn't know if it was going to tip."

The painter hung from the wire, which was 40 feet in the air, until another man with a truck-mounted aerial drove by and saw him hanging there. The man with the truck raised the bucket and the man on the wire jumped into it and was lowered to safety.

The man hanging from the wire was not electrocuted because he didn't touch another wire or the ground to finish the circuit. The man was not hurt because he was never grounded.

However, the driver who came to the man's aid then snagged a telephone wire as he was pulling off the street.

Lift Equipment – May 1999

Bloomington, Ill. – A worker was struck by the boom of a truck-mounted aerial lift as the machine tipped over. The man died of internal injuries.

Sherwood, Ore. – A man was found dead after having his head and shoulders crushed by the arms of the scissor lift. He was performing maintenance work when the lift lowered onto him. There were no witnesses. OSHA is investigating the accident.

Princeton, Ky. – A worker was injured while working from a scissor lift. The operator was working on the electrical system for a manufacturing facility about 18 feet high. He became tangled in the hot wires.

Another worker, standing approximately eight feet away, was burned by the electricity.

The scissor lift operator sustained second and third degree burns on the face, chest, arms and upper abdomen.

Middletown, R.I. – A worker was injured when the boom of a truck-mounted aerial dropped as he was stringing digital cable lines. According to the police officer on the scene: “The worker was 12 to 15 feet above the ground when the bucket fell. The bucket never struck the ground, it just collapsed into its position.”

The operator wasn’t thrown from the bucket which stopped two to three feet from the ground.

Injuries appeared to be minor.

Lift Equipment – June/July 1999

Timber, Ore. – Transportation officials said a bridge crew was working at the eastern end of a two-lane tunnel when the timber and sheet metal roof suddenly gave way. One of the workers was killed while inspecting a leak in the roof from the bucket of an articulated truck-mounted aerial lift. The roof gave way and buried the man in debris. Two other workers were hit by debris but not seriously injured.

The collapse shut down traffic in both directions along the key route between Portland and the Oregon Coast.

Syracuse, N.Y. – Two tree trimmers were working in a trailer-mounted aerial lift with an articulated boom when one of the men was electrocuted.

The injured man had tied a rope around a nearby tree limb. Power lines were in close proximity to the limb. The other worker on the platform was standing behind the man with the rope when he saw a flash and heard a crackle. He saw smoke around the man with the rope and said his friend was gasping for air.

“It seemed like he was having a seizure,” said the worker. “He turned around and was about to fall. I laid him down inside the bucket and was screaming to my co-workers to bring the bucket down.”

The injured operator wasn’t breathing when the bucket was lowered to the ground. CPR was administered by his co-worker. Paramedics were able to restart his heart.

Investigators interviewed the uninjured worker, who said the platform was at least six feet from the power lines.

A spokesperson for the power company said it was nearly impossible to be electrocuted unless contact was made with the lines.

Pasadena, Calif. – Three construction workers were injured after they fell 26 feet when a rough-terrain scissor lift tipped over.

The workers had been installing drywall when the accident occurred.

“I would say they were operating the equipment outside of the manufacturer’s recommended guidelines,” said an OSHA spokesman. He said there was no evidence of faulty equipment. The machine lost balance because it was being used on an approximate 13° incline.

Investigators were also looking to see if the workers were properly trained in the use of the equipment.

Minneapolis, Minn. – An electrician was killed when the truck-mounted aerial lift he was operating was struck by a tractor-trailer. The lift was positioned in a blocked-off lane, while the operator installed a message board on a bridge.

According to the Minnesota State Patrol, the electrician was knocked from the bucket and fatally injured when his head struck the road.

The state safety spokesperson said: “The bucket was extended over the right center lane, which was not blocked off... What he apparently did was to bring the bucket down to go under the bridge and it clipped the top of the semi’s air spoiler. That tipped the bucket over and he fell and hit the ground.” The truck driver was uninjured.

North Ridgeville, Ohio – A truck-mounted aerial lift overturned when it hit a dip in the road while making a right turn. The driver of the truck wasn’t hurt.

The driver of the truck called his company and used one of their truck-mounted cranes to pick up the truck. “This is an advertisement I don’t want,” said the aerial and crane owner.

Traffic was blocked for about an hour.

Lift Equipment – August 1999

Lincoln, Neb. – A truck-mounted aerial lift snagged overhead lines while crossing railroad tracks. The driver did not notice that the boom was not properly secured and had raised approximately two feet. The low-voltage wires, which controlled a signal system for trains, caught under the truck’s boom as if they were in the joint of a pair of scissors.

According to police, trains had to be stopped from coming through the crossing for about an hour. Estimates placed damaged costs at between \$7,500 and \$15,000. The driver of the aerial lift, which had been rented, was cited for negligent driving.

Omaha, Neb. – A construction worker died and another was seriously injured after the aerial work platform they were in collapsed, causing them to fall 30 feet.

OSHA and the police released few details, but apparently, the men were working at an apartment complex when the accident occurred.

“They were 30 feet in the air, right along the roof’s edge,” said a fire department chief. “Somehow it collapsed.”

The men fell onto soil, and paramedics called in a helicopter to take the man with the most serious injuries to a hospital. The man who was air lifted was pronounced dead shortly after his arrival at the hospital.

Graceville, Fla. – A worker escaped injuries when he jumped from the platform of a self-propelled aerial work platform before the machine was struck by a tractor-trailer.

The worker was driving the boom lift across the highway with the boom extended. The driver of an oncoming truck was unable to stop when he saw the work platform. The vehicle hit the aerial’s boom. The cab and driver were ripped from the frame of the truck. The truck driver was pronounced dead at the scene.

Harrisburg, Pa. – A man was electrocuted while washing the sides of a bank with a spray washer from a truck-mounted aerial. The worker was standing in the bucket when water sprayed power lines. The bucket caught fire and fell to the ground. The worker died.

Rescuers said they could not intervene until the crews cut power to the lines.

Lift Equipment – September 1999

Milford, Conn. – A man is recovering from injuries received after his scissor lift tipped. According to an OSHA spokesman, the scissor lift struck the man causing a skull fracture, broken arm and cuts and bruises.

Milford, Del. – An electrical contractor was installing a traffic signal when he backed the aerial lift into a cable that stretched 30 feet above the street.

When the machine struck the cable, a large portion of a building's façade was torn free, crushing its awning and sign.

The cable, which is used to hand banners during parades and city celebrations, was bolted to the building's brick façade.

Jersey City, N.J. – A worker was killed while trying to climb from the roof of a building into the bucket of a truck-mounted aerial so he could go to lunch. He missed the bucket and fell to his death. Police estimated he fell 60 feet.

Coeur d'Alene, Ind. – A contractor was applying a fresh coat of paint to the front of a building. As the boom of the aerial work platform was lowered, it struck a ledge on the building. According to a witness, the front wheels of the lift raised completely off the ground sending the painter and the platform of the machine to the ground. The painter was shaken, but not badly injured.

New York, N.Y. – A contractor was injured while doing repairs on a school's exterior. The injuries were sustained when a large section of cornice broke off and struck him. The worker was one of several people working from an aerial work platform. Firefighters on the scene said the worker was hit in the head by a piece of debris and then pinned inside the platform by another. His leg was broken and his hardhat was smashed. Engineers for the school district and other agency are reviewing the building's safety.

Somerville, Tenn. – A utility worker was killed while working on cable television lines. As the truck neared the lines, the truck tilted throwing the worker from the bucket of his truck-mounted aerial to the ground. Before the fallen worker could be moved, the truck also fell and the bucket pinned the man to the ground. He died before fellow workers could hoist the vehicle.

Lift Equipment – October/November 1999

Kalamazoo, Mich. – A bucket truck operator was working near an intersection when his bucket truck was struck by a tractor-trailer. According to police, the truck was slowing and preparing to make a turn when it hit the bucket. The operator was wearing a safety harness, so when he was thrown from the bucket, he remained suspended. Fellow workers lowered the man to the ground and he was transported to an area hospital. He left the hospital later the same day.

Franklin, Tenn. – A tree service employee was killed while working in his bucket truck. According to police, the man was in the extended boom while the vehicle was moving. The truck flipped and the worker was thrown from the bucket. He was then struck by the boom after he had hit the ground. Fellow employees and neighbors near the accident site tried to lift the boom and remove the worker. Police said the man probably died on impact.

Lift Equipment – December 1999

Torrington, Conn. – A worker died while trimming trees from a truck-mounted aerial. The man fell 20 to 25 feet after a cable in the boom broke, sending it crashing to the ground. The man was found in the bucket of the unit with head injuries.

Raleigh, N.C. – While working on a local EPA building, a pipe fitter fell 20 feet from an aerial work platform and was seriously injured.

According to officials, the victim was working on an extended platform when he fell from it. He landed on a concrete floor. OSHA investigators were on site in the early stages of inquiry. A spokesman for the contractor said the man worked for a sub-contractor at the site, but did not know the specifics of the job.

The worker was taken by helicopter to a local hospital, where he was listed in serious condition. Medics said he suffered a severe head injury.

Gretna, Va. – Two workers were stranded an hour and a half in an inoperable truck-mounted aerial 45 feet in the air before being rescued. The workers were topping trees when the personnel bucket stuck in the raised position.

Red Bluff, Calif. – While climbing into the bucket of a truck-mounted aerial designed with a hydraulic pruning tower, a tree trimmer caught his foot in the elevator lever. He hung partially out of the bucket as the unit elevated to its maximum 25-foot extension before falling to his death.

Lift Equipment – January 2000

Columbus, Ohio – Two electric power workers were injured after a truck-mounted aerial they were working on tipped over. One man was in serious condition with leg and arm fractures, and the other sustained bruises.

A spokesperson for the electrical company said the linemen were working from the aerial lift when the unit tilted over in a parking lot that was being built for the local convention center. Police said the outriggers were extended and lowered on one side of the aerial to keep its balance, but not on the other side. When the men rotated the boom, it caused the machine to tip.

Chicago, Ill. – A worker was killed and another seriously injured when an aerial work platform fell from a barge into the river during a reconstruction project.

The lift had been parked on a barge while the men removed forms that had been used to pour concrete when the accident happened. Six construction workers jumped into the water to unstrap the men and fire department divers pulled the victims from the river. One man was not breathing and did not have a pulse, but paramedics were able to revive him and deliver him unconscious to a hospital where he died five hours later. The other victim was in serious condition.

A spokesman for the Illinois Department of Transportation said it was too early to determine a cause of the accident, but that the conditions and operation would be under investigation. He was specifically interested in finding whether the lift was properly braked and anchored on the barge.

Kelowna, British Columbia – While renovating a store, an electrician died when operating a scissor lift. The wheels dropped into a 6.6-foot square, 12-inch deep hole in the concrete floor, and unable to drive the platform out of the hole, he moved from the extended operator's platform onto the lift's main platform, causing the unit to topple over.

The unit was a model not currently in production, and was built prior to the design standard for pothole protection. The coroner commented that workers compensation board investigators "have revealed that there are still stability problems when equipment is...run over obstructions or into holes." She noted that regular WCB inspections of the Kelowna work site had not take place. There was also a

faulty speed-reduction sensor on the rented lift and no level indicator. There was also a lack of adequate operator training.

Lift Equipment – February 2000

Mount Vernon, Ohio – Two men were killed when the truck-mounted aerial they were washing windows from tipped.

“The truck was lying its side, and all of its outriggers were in place, which would make you think they were not extended,” says a local fire department medic.

Fire fighters reported that the personnel basket fell 60 to 70 feet. One man suffered head injuries and died on site. The other worker was taken to a local hospital with leg and arm injuries; he died later that day. OSHA is investigating the accident.

Troy, Ohio – While repairing a street light from a truck-mounted aerial, a worker fell 10 to 25 feet to his death. He was working on an overhead light when the hydraulic cylinder of the boom suddenly bent, pitching the operator out of the bucket.

The man was transported by helicopter to a hospital where he was later pronounced dead. A patrolman reported the cause of the accident was either a malfunction of equipment, or that there was too much weight in the bucket. The accident remains under investigation.

Ellenville, N.Y. – A man was killed by a falling tree while working from a truck-mounted aerial. A chain saw operator had made a preparatory cut in what appeared to be a healthy tree when its trunk cracked and the tree fell. A manager for the local utility company said that the crew was clearing a corridor so power lines could be rebuilt.

“The top of the tree hit the boom, then the trunk slid down the boom,” reported a police investigator, “It was purely an accident.”

The cut in the 18-inch diameter tree was only 3 ½ inches deep, and the tree had not been scheduled to fall at the time. However, the tree and all its bark had been gutted by insects, weakening its stability.

Aurora, Ohio – An aerial work platform operator fell 25 feet to his death. The man was performing renovation work on a hotel when the accident occurred. He went into cardiac arrest before he could be taken to a hospital. The local fire chief said that no one witnessed the incident, but the accident remains under investigation.

Lift Equipment – March 2000

Aurora, Ohio – A man died after falling approximately two stories from an aerial. He was doing remodeling work at a construction site.

Life Flight personnel pronounced the victim dead at the scene and autopsy reports stated the death was caused by blunt trauma to the head from the fall. Police noted that demolition work was being done during the incident to assist remodeling efforts.

“He was in a bucket, and somehow he fell out of the bucket,” says a local police chief. “We’re not sure how he fell because there were no witnesses.”

OSHA is investigating the accident and an OSHA spokesman said that a compliance officer was at the scene. Officials from the construction company did not comment about the incident.

Dalton, Mass. – A truck-mounted aerial’s boom collapsed, throwing both a boy and his father about 30 feet. Both victims sustained injuries, but specific details were not disclosed.

The man was using the aerial to work on a utility pole, according to a local patrol officer, the boom snapped at its base. The cause of the accident is under investigation, but the officer did not find stress cracks or leaking hydraulic fluid.

According to the officer, the man was found 18 feet away and his son 34 feet away from the utility pole. Police said they found both men drifting in and out of consciousness and that the father was unable to move the lower half of his body. The boy had been wearing a bicycle helmet which had shattered during the fall. Rescue workers stabilized them both and transported them to a local hospital. It is unclear why the boy was in the vehicle with his father or which was operating the controls. State authorities are investigating the accident.

Villa Ridge, Ill – An electric company lineman and foreman died when a co-worker moved the personnel basket on a truck-mounted aerial into a power line. The sheriff said crews from the electric company were replacing power poles with the incident occurred. The victims were pronounced dead at a local hospital.

Lift Equipment – April 2000

Sandpoint, Ind. – OSHA fined a company \$122,000 for an aerial work platform collapse in which two workers sustained injuries after being thrown from the platform. Both men received treatment at local hospitals; one worker suffered an arm injury and the other sustained a back injury.

The company was issued two “willful” citations and a “serious” citation for the incident. Investigators determined that the company was at fault because a forklift was used to raise the aerial after its batteries failed. According to OSHA, the unit’s batteries were inadequately charged and the platform was overloaded. The administration also determined that the platform was being used improperly as a crane to lift a pallet containing structural steel.

The “serious” violation was issued because employees were working on a scaffold more than 10 feet above ground without guardrails, a safety net or body harnesses.

Verona, Miss. – A man fell 30 feet from a truck-mounted aerial lift while trimming trees in a residential area. A county coroner reported multiple trauma injuries as the cause of death. OSHA is investigating the accident.

Atalissa, Iowa – A construction worker received a shock when the bucket of his truck-mounted aerial contacted a power line. The sheriff’s office reported that he was conscious and alert following the incident. The sheriff’s office reported that he was conscious and alert following the incident. The victim was taken to a local hospital where he was listed in critical condition.

Lift Equipment – June/July 2000

Chicago, Ill. – A tree trimmer was killed when the mast of his truck-mounted aerial lift broke at the chassis. County officials estimated the worker’s fall from the personnel platform to be approximately 20 to 35 feet.

A homeowner who saw the accident said the unit was parked when the incident occurred. He observed the worker leaning over the bucket trimming trees when he heard a loud crack and saw the boom break free from the chassis.

“After a loud crack sound, there was a huge boom and the windows on the truck blew out from the weight,” said the witness. “He was really driven hard into the pavement because of the weight from the truck.”

Eyewitnesses said the man hit the side of his head on the pavement. “He was unconscious when the rescue squad appeared at the scene,” said the fire chief. He was taken to a local hospital and later pronounced dead.

The acting OSHA director said officials are investigating the accident along with local police and the county coroner’s office.

Marathon, Fla. – A contractor working on an electrical tie line was injured when the bucket of his aerial lift crossed phases, causing a flashover. The man sustained second- and third-degree burns on his hands, arms, and face. He was taken to a local hospital and treated at a burn unit.

The incident caused a 19-minute power outage for most city electric customers. The bucket was tied to the middle phase when the accident occurred.

The bucket flexed and came in contact with the bottom phase. The flashover happened when the bucket crossed phases. Breakers instantly de-energized the line. The line was not damaged. The control center did not re-energize the line until a city electrical representative confirmed the victim was free of it.

London, Ontario – A construction worker was tossed from a self-propelled aerial work platform when a bus hit the platform. The unit was parked on the sidewalk, but the boom was extended over the street. The worker was taken to a local health center where he was reported in stable condition with not life-threatening injuries.

Another worker saw the accident. He said the man was trying to move the aerial platform onto the street and then closer to the building to help with the glass installation when the incident occurred. The police sergeant said it appeared there were no road markers or crews to alert drivers that the aerial platform was being operated. Because he was working on a private street, however, workers are not required to post warning signs or have someone direct traffic.

A furniture delivery worker also witnessed the incident. “He had both his arms stretched out and kept yelling at the [bus] driver to stop,” he said. “The bus kept coming at him. I thought, he’s got to stop, but he kept coming. Then the bus hit him – hard.”

“He flew through the air like a rag doll,” the delivery man added. “I really thought he would die.” He said the victim hit the road face down and landed under a parked van. Reports did not indicate whether the victim was wearing fall protection.

Sommerville, Tenn. – A utility worker was killed when the truck-mounted aerial lift on which he was working flipped over and crushed him. The man was relocating cable television lines along the highway when the accident occurred.

The aerial lift was parked on the side of the highway where bridge construction was under way. The utility lines were located off the road down a ravine. Though a co-worker advised the victim to take the aerial lift down into the ravine for safer access, he opted to keep the unit just off the road.

“He said he’d done it a million times,” said the worker. Witnesses said the victim was in the bucket as he neared the lines, the weight of the platform and the boom caused the unit to flip.

The utility worker fell on his back and became trapped beneath the bucket and the boom. Other construction crews at the site were unable to hoist the unit off the man before he died.

Traffic in both directions was stopped for more than an hour. The state highway patrol is investigating the accident.

Salamanca, N.Y. – A lumber worker was injured when the personnel platform of his boom lift fell approximately 25 to 30 feet. He was working on a ceiling fan when a chain inside the boom gave way. The man was transported to a hospital where he was listed in stable condition.

Lift Equipment – September 2000

Cary, N.C. – A worker fell approximately 25 feet from a truck-mounted aerial lift and died at the construction site. He was working on a new shopping center when the incident occurred.

According to a police lieutenant, the victim died of massive head injuries. “A bar joist fell, striking him and causing him to fall from the bucket,” he said.

After determining there was no foul play, the police turned the investigation over to OSHA. OSHA officials with the State Department of Labor continued the investigation.

“We need to find out exactly who he was working for. And a lot of times, that is the hardest part of the investigation. You have so many contractors and subcontractors out there,” a Department of Labor spokesperson said shortly after the accident occurred.

After OSHA learned of the rigging and crane rental company for which the victim worked, it began the investigation. The spokesperson said it was unclear whether a mechanical malfunction or human error caused the accident.

Bridgeport, Conn. – A highway worker was killed when he fell from a boom lift. He was working on a new bridge section that was being erected to widen a local highway when he fell onto a city street below.

“He fell about 60 feet from the lift to his death,” said the police captain.

Denver City, Texas – A boom-truck operator suffered severe head injuries when the truck-mounted aerial he was operating overturned. Another worker was also in the bucket and sustained a broken leg. The two men were in the bucket cleaning a portion of a power plant’s steam turbine. The men were approximately 30 feet in the air.

According to reports, the truck was completely stabilized when it suddenly overturned. It was also noted that both men were wearing their fall protection gear when the accident occurred.

The cause of the accident was unknown.

Bridgeport, Conn. – A construction worker fell to his death while working in an articulated-boom lift. The man was working on a new bridge section being built to widen a highway.

“I heard a real big bang and came out and saw the lift had collapsed,” a nearby dock worker said. He said the victim fell from the lift into a fenced-in area underneath an overpass that is used by construction firms.

According to a police captain, he fell about 60 feet from the lift. Police called in federal OSHA to assist with an investigation.

Ironically, the incident occurred during National Work Zone Safety Awareness Week.

Lift Equipment – October/November 2000

Chicago, Ill. – A jury recently found Grove U.S. LLC not guilty in its design of controls on one of its scissor lifts. The scissor lift was involved in a January 1998 construction accident that left an operator permanently disabled.

The jury of eight deliberated for less than one hour before finding that the scissor lift was not defective or unreasonably dangerous with regard to its controls or with respect to the warnings and instructions accompanying the product.

The injured pipefitter had hoped to recover more than \$38 million from Grove to pay for his ongoing care and to compensate him for physical pain, mental suffering, and loss of enjoyment of life. The accident left him brain damaged and paralyzed from the neck down. He is unable to speak and requires 24-hour care. The cost of his life care plan is estimated to be \$23 million.

The pipefitter was using a freight elevator to move the Grove scissor lift from one floor to another when he was pinned between the platform’s railing and the elevator’s ceiling. The lift’s removable

control box was beneath him, still attached to the lift's railing. Co-workers who found him were unfamiliar with how to lower the platform in an emergency. They resorted to using a torch to cut the machine's railing to free him. By the end of the 10-minute process, the worker had stopped breathing and had suffered permanent brain damage.

Lawyers for the injured worker argued that a broken switch guard designed to prevent inadvertent action of the lift was to blame for the accident. They claimed one of the two screws holding the switch guard in place, designed to protect a set of toggle switches from being moved accidentally, had come loose. This, in turn, allowed the accident to happen when the worker leaned over the control box inside the elevator. They argued the screw wouldn't have come loose if designers had used lock washers to hold it in place.

Grove's attorney's disagreed, saying there was nothing defective with the 11-year-old lift, which is still in use at the plant where the accident took place. The attorneys said the worker wasn't properly operating the lift when he drove it onto the elevator while having to squat down in the work platform due to low overhead clearance. They also argued that the operator should have removed the control box and operated the lift from the ground while maneuvering it through such tight places. They stated that the contractor who employed the pipefitter was at fault for not training the employees on the machine's proper use.

The jurors agreed that the switch could not have been designed any better. The jury foreman, a part-time owner of a body shop, said, "I know about nuts and bolts and fasteners. It couldn't have been defective."

Other defendants in the suit were dismissed after reaching confidential out-of-court settlements.

Lift Equipment – December 2000

Waltham, Mass. – An aerial lift operator was seriously burned when the unit he operated made contact with a high-tension wire.

According to a patrolman who responded to the emergency call, the victim was shocked with 115,000 volts and thrown five feet as he stood on the ground operating the lift from a control pane. The electricity scorched and blew out one of the lift's tires and burned other parts of the unit.

When firefighters arrived, they found the victim with burns on most of his body, a local fire captain said.

The victim, who was working for a company that installs drywall, was using the lift to put up scaffolding on an office building when he was injured.

According to a hospital spokesperson, he was taken by ambulance to a local hospital, where he was listed in serious condition.

Bumpus Mills, Ky. – A five-year-old boy was fatally injured when an aerial lift's boom swung around and hit him in the head.

According to police, adults were unloading the lift from a truck when the accident occurred.

Apparently, the lift slipped and hit the ground. When it did, the boom swung around and missed a little girl, but hit the boy.

Hartford, Conn. – Two workers, who were wearing safety harnesses, were injured when the top sections of a telescopic boom aerial work platform collapsed.

According to a local fire official, the victims dangled in the air for several minutes before firefighters rescued them. The harnesses, which were attached to the platform, prevented the men from falling 75 feet to the ground.

The victims were repairing a 120-foot high brick exhaust stack at a local hospital when the accident occurred.

One victim suffered a head injury after swinging into the steel lift; the other received minor injuries.

Lift Equipment – February 2001

Omaha, Neb. – A construction worker fell to his death while working on the platform of a scissor lift that had been raised approximately 25 feet in the air. The man was working on steel roofing for a new warehouse when the scissor lift slid into a nearby trench, which was one foot deep and four feet wide, causing the machine to topple. The man was taken by helicopter to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. According to a local sheriff's captain, the man was wearing a safety harness. The accident is being investigated by OSHA.

Lift Equipment – March 2001

Rockmart, Ga. – A worker at a landscaping company was killed when he fell approximately 50 feet from the bucket of a truck-mounted aerial lift. Apparently, the man was cutting a limb off a tree when it snapped back and struck him, knocking him out of the bucket. The worker was later pronounced dead at a hospital.

Lift Equipment – April 2001

Cape May, N.J. – A 38-year-old worker was injured in an accident at a ferry terminal. The accident occurred as a crane lowered a metal roof of a walkway that will connect the terminal to a walk-on passenger stairway. The weight of the load shifted, and the roof slid off the walkway. The roof hit the worker, who was on a boom lift, and it trapped him on the platform. The worker was airlifted to a nearby medical center, where he was treated and later released. This accident is under investigation.

Velma, Okla. – A contractor was seriously injured while he and a crew of three other men were repairing poles and lines that were damaged. The victim was preparing to install a transformer on top of an electrical pole and working from an aerial work platform when he made contact with a guy bolt and dead-end clamp. After he was electrocuted, the man fell 25 to 30 feet to the ground. The man was taken to a hospital, where he was listed in serious condition.

Lift Equipment – May 2001

Stockton, Calif. – A pruner at a cherry orchard died after he came into contact with electrical wires. The man was elevated 20 feet in a boom-style lift when he was electrocuted. The accident is under investigation by Cal-OSHA.

York, Pa. – A worker was electrocuted when he made contact with a power line while using a power washer from an aerial lift. The man was hospitalized in critical condition.

Oak Hill, Fla. – A tree trimmer working near power lines was electrocuted when the aerial lift he was using brushed a power line carrying 13,000 volts of electricity. According to a co-worker, "Apparently he misjudged the distance to the lines." Fire officials said the man was dead when they arrived at the scene.

This accident is under investigation by the local sheriff's office and OSHA.

Muskegon, Mich. – A worker sustained severe head and chest injuries while operating an aerial lift. The man was working on an overhead door in a garage when he apparently leaned over and accidentally activated the controls of the lift. According to authorities, the worker became pinned between the bucket and supporting trusses.

Paramedics worked to revive the injured worker for approximately 25 minutes before he was taken to a hospital, where he was listed in critical condition.

Lift Equipment – June/July 2001

Wilmington, Del. – A worker repairing a traffic light was thrown from the bucket of a truck-mounted aerial lift after it was struck by a truck.

Upon impact, he was thrown from the unit, falling 20 feet to the ground and landing on his side.

County paramedics treated the man for back and chest injuries at the scene. The worker was then flown to a hospital, where he was listed in serious but stable condition.

The truck driver told police he saw the aerial lift truck parked on the street but did not see the bucket. Police say an investigation is continuing, and no charges have been filed.

Greenville, S.C. – A man was hurt when he came into contact with power lines while trimming trees from a truck-mounted aerial lift. The man was shocked and sustained burns. The victim received treatment from firefighters and emergency medical service workers before being taken to the hospital.

Waltham, Mass. – A man working on a cable line fell out of the bucket of a truck-mounted aerial lift. According to police, the truck was parked on an incline and rolled backward. The vehicle's boom stuck an electric utility pole, causing the bucket to fall off. The man fell 20 feet to the ground and suffered head injuries. The police said that no one was in the truck when it started rolling. The victim was flown via helicopter to a local hospital, where he later died.

Hermantown, Minn. – A man was listed in serious condition after a 25-foot fall at a construction site. A local fire chief said the worker fell from the bucket of a truck-mounted aerial lift after a main hydraulic seal on the lift broke.

Ogden, Utah – A 30-year-old man was killed when a scissor lift collapsed on top of him, crushing his neck. According to an Ogden fire captain, the worker crawled through an access panel to clean out debris that had accumulated underneath the scissor lift when the hydraulics apparently failed. Workers who witnessed the accident assisted their co-worker by using a forklift to raise the scissor lift off the man, while others crawled in the small 18"x18" door and pulled out the victim. By the time medical personnel arrived, co-workers had already begun CPR. The man later died, however, at a local hospital, from crushing injuries to the neck. The accident is under investigation by OSHA.

Lift Equipment – August 2001

Sibley, Iowa – A tree-trimmer died after falling from a fully extended truck-mounted aerial lift. Evidently, the aerial lift was telescoped to a full 50 feet when the boom abruptly collapsed, hit the ground, and ejected the worker from the bucket.

The man was taken to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead. This accident is under investigation.

Boston, Mass. – A utility worker sustained serious head injuries after working on an overhead cable from a truck-mounted aerial lift parked in a driveway. The worker, elevated to 20 feet, was in the bucket when the truck rolled down the driveway and hit a telephone pole. The boom and the bucket snapped off, which caused the man to fall and injure his head. He was treated for his injuries at a nearby hospital.

Ludington, Mich. – A painter, working from a telescopic boom lift, struck a power line and sustained minor injuries. When he was operating the lift, the boom came in contact with a neighboring power line, giving him an electric shock. He was taken to a nearby hospital, where he was listed in stable condition.

Lift Equipment – September 2001

Northampton, Mass. – A boom lift, in transport on a trailer, struck an oncoming truck after the raised boom slammed against an overpass. Local authorities on the scene said that the boom hit the concrete bridge and swung around into the path of the oncoming vehicle. After hitting the truck, the lift ricocheted back against the bridge's supports, striking a column and knocking away a large chunk of concrete. No one was seriously injured from the accident. State inspectors are investigating.

New Westminster, British Columbia – A truck-mounted aerial lift collided with the top of a bridge, causing the structure of the bridge to become unstable. Police said the boom rose too high during the crossing and struck the stabilizing bar that keeps the bridge from swaying back and forth. The metal superstructure of the bridge was bent and dented in several places. No one was injured, but traffic was restricted to one lane for several days.

Harrison Township, N.J. – A self-employed electrical contractor suffered severe burns after his head touched a live electrical wire. He was working from a boom lift, positioned about 20 feet high. About 7,200 volts of electricity passed through his body. Police said that it was not apparent that he was wearing any protective gear at the time of the accident, but his blue T-shirt was bunt so badly that the collar was the only fabric left.

Hooksett, N.H. – A lineman working from a truck-mounted aerial lift suffered minor injuries after the aerial lift rolled and topple onto three parked cars. The supervisor on the jobsite said the accident occurred when the operator was relocating a pole in a parking lot and forgot to extend the outriggers before climbing into the bucket.

Authorities suspect if the worker had not been tied off in the bucket, then he could have been thrown a considerable distance when the truck rolled onto its side or when the bucket came crashing to the ground.

Contractors Risk Management, Inc., Concord, N.H., is inspecting the scene and said the operator could face charges once the accident inspectors determine a cause for the accident.

Lift Equipment – October/November 2001

Temecula, Calif. – A boom lift operator was injured while changing light bulbs at a sports complex. The victim was working from a height of approximately 80 feet when the boom lift fell on its side, knocking over a light pole and breaking the man's leg.

The operator had parked the lift on a steep slope and had placed several pieces of plywood under its tires before it slid and fell over, authorities said.

The worker was taken to a nearby hospital, where he was treated for his injuries.

Greenville, Ohio – A man working in an aerial lift was electrocuted after brushing his head against a power line. He was removing loose paint from the roof of a two-story apartment building when the accident occurred. The fatal electrical blast sent approximately 7,200 volts of electricity through his body and knocked him off of the platform.

Lift Equipment – December 2001

Kansas City, Mo. – A construction worker operating a scissor lift suffered head and facial injuries after falling 35 to 40 feet. While attaching siding to the third floor of a parking garage, two wheels of the lift moved off a step and tipped the lift over, causing the man to fall. Authorities are unsure if the operator accidentally hit the controls of the scissor lift; if he intentionally moved the machine but did not know the step was nearby; or if the scissor lift malfunctioned. OSHA and the worker's employer plan to investigate the accident.

Stockton, Calif. – A truck driver was killed after the boom of a truck-mounted aerial lift smashed into the back of his truck cab. Witnesses said the driver of the aerial lift truck swerved to avoid a car that had pulled into his lane of traffic. The aerial lift tilted on its side, and the boom swung out of control and hit the truck. The boom also struck the car that cut in front of the aerial lift. Neither the driver of the car nor the aerial lift driver was seriously injured.

Lift Equipment – January 2002

Hooksett, N.H. – A man fixing a light pole escaped injury after the aerial lift he was operating flipped onto its side and crushed three cars. The operator's supervisor reported that the worker did not have his outriggers extended. The operator had been buckled into the aerial lift, and authorities on the scene said that his injuries could have been far more extensive if he had not worn a fall protection device. After the fall, the aerial lift was secured on its side while the fire department tied its truck to the lift's bumper to ensure that the boom truck would not move or flip over. The operator's company brought in three additional service trucks, including a truck-mounted crane that was used to move the aerial lift and tow it from the scene.

Mesa, Ariz. – A truck-mounted aerial lift tip over caused a man pruning trees to fall more than 40 feet from the platform. The man suffered a broken leg and back pain, but he was able to walk away from the accident. The machine featured a maximum platform height of 75 feet. The boom was extended 40 feet when the unit flipped. According to investigators, only three out of the four outriggers were lowered.

Lockport, N.Y. – A truck-mounted aerial lift crossing an intersection hit traffic light wires and overturned in the intersection, knocking out the signal lights. Witnesses at the scene said the boom had been raised while the truck drove through the intersection; the driver said the boom had been lowered and secured, but the wires hung too low.

Stantonsburg, N.C. – No injuries occurred when the platform on a city-owned truck-mounted aerial lift crashed down on a maintenance building, knocking down all the light fixtures inside the facility. The accident happened when the extended boom was being repaired and, suddenly, dropped approximately 20 feet. The platform made an impression five feet deep in the tin roof, but the roof did not crack.

Tampa, Fla. – A bridge overpass on a highway crumbled on one side after a truck-mounted aerial lift smashed into it. The truck was driving under the overpass with its lift raised and pulled one support down onto the truck and cracked the second support. The accident shut down the expressway for several hours while firefighters secured the area. No one was injured.

Clarksville, Ark. – A construction worker was injured after the scissor lift he was elevated on tipped over and fell to the ground. Witnesses said the ground gave way where the lift was parked, causing the equipment and operator to fall.

Lift Equipment – February 2002

Utica, Mich. – A truck-mounted aerial lift operator changing light bulbs broke his arm when he accidentally stepped on the lift's controls. The operator climbed from the aerial lift onto a restaurant façade sign to change light bulbs. When he tried to get back into the personnel basket, he stepped on the controls. The aerial lift raised up and pinned the man's arm between the lift and the sign. The operator also had stepped on the emergency stop button that disabled the controls and left him stuck in midair. The city's fire department used its aerial lift to extricate the man from his position between the sign and the aerial lift.

Dayton, Ohio – A demolition contractor was in critical condition after part of a four-story wall collapsed on him. The man was operating a 40- to 50-foot aerial lift inside an abandoned cement plant. An exterior building wall made of concrete and steel crumbled, struck the boom, and knocked the aerial lift operator down approximately 50 feet. Debris fell on top of the operator, who suffered broken legs and arms, and a head injury.

OSHA is investigating why the wall collapsed the way it did and if the operator was tied off with a safety harness. The county fire chief said the man was wearing a safety harness, but he did not know if it had been connected to the personnel basket destroyed in the accident.

Boston, Mass. – A structural engineer inspecting a viaduct underneath a bridge was killed when the truck-mounted aerial lift he was operating tipped. The man and his co-worker were raised about 80 feet when the truck tipped over. The co-worker was wearing a safety harness, but the man that was killed was not tied off. He died of head injuries at the scene. Authorities are unsure of the cause of the accident.

San Francisco, Calif. – A construction worker was flung from the basket of an aerial work platform after a taxi collided with the lift during a rainstorm. The taxi was driving down the street and hit the boom lift as it traveled, catapulting the operator approximately 80 feet from the lift. The impact of the accident pinned the cab's doors shut. Rescue workers lifted the roof off the cab, so the driver and the passenger could be rescued.

Police determined that the cab driver was driving too fast for the rainy conditions, and witnesses said the taxi did not have its lights on. The lift operator, taxi driver, and passenger all suffered minor injuries.

Lift Equipment – March 2002

Ithaca, N.Y. – Two construction workers were injured after a truck crane tipped over while lowering a steel beam. The crane, placing the beam at the site of an unfinished store, tipped over and knocked two walls out of place. One of the workers was standing on a raised scissor lift platform directly in the path of the crane when it came down. The boom crushed the lift against a wall and pinned the man underneath it. He suffered head injuries and was airlifted to a hospital.

Another worker on a second scissor lift inside the building was injured after being knocked to the ground. When the crane tipped over, it hit a nearby wall and caused the cement blocks to knock over the lift. The operator suffered minor injuries to his knees and arms.

A fire department official at the scene said he is not sure why the accident occurred-if the crane was attempting to lift too heavy a load, if it was operating at a radius beyond the chart, or if it did not have the proper footing.

An OSHA official investigating the accident cited improper crane footing support as the main cause of other crane-tipping cases but said more than one factor typically causes such an accident.

Kingston, N.H. – A cable repair man was electrocuted when the aerial lift his coworker was operating struck a power line. The repairman was leaning against the cable company's truck, while his coworker operated the unoccupied aerial lift from controls inside the truck's cab. Police investigators said the coworker sent the platform straight into the live wires. The line was charged with more than 19,000 volts of electricity. While the truck's rubber tires protected the man inside the truck, the repairman on the outside was not protected.

Rescue workers at the accident tried unsuccessfully to revive the man for nearly an hour. Police ruled out any criminal charges against the lift's operator. OSHA also was at the scene, conducting its own investigation.

Bellevue, Wash. – A 41-year-old man was in critical condition after the aerial work platform he was operating tipped off a truck and fell to the ground. The operator was on the platform of the boom lift replacing windows and at about 30 feet in the air. After the job was finished, he drove the extended lift up a ramp to load it onto a flatbed truck, when the lift lost its balance. The Washington Department of Labor and Industries is investigating the accident.

San Leandro, Calif. – A four-car pile-up occurred when a boom lift strapped onto a flatbed trailer fell off and struck the highway's overpass. Officials said the aerial work platform was not securely tied-down on the trailer. It damaged four of the eight supporting beams under the bridge. The pavement on the highway's eastbound lanes also was cracked.

The lanes damaged in the accident have been shut down until repairs can be made. Officials said repair work is expected to take a few weeks. One person in the pile-up suffered a head injury, but no one else was seriously injured in the accident.

Lift Equipment – April 2002

Harselle, Ala. – A man trimming a tree from an aerial lift died after the truck he was working from flipped over. Witnesses said the man was elevated, and he was rotating the boom when the truck tipped over. The owner of the tree-trimming company was working from another aerial lift on the same property, and he noticed that the lift operator did not have his outriggers down. The owner said he yelled to get the man's attention, but it was too late—the truck had already started to tip. The operator fell 25 to 30 feet and died from internal injuries.

Chicago, Ill. – A Wisconsin man was killed using a scissor lift to install a sprinkler system. While the scissor lift was in motion, it hit a depression in the floor and tipped over. The operator fell 30 feet; he died three weeks later from his injuries. The family of the man has filed a lawsuit alleging owners of the jobsite and related companies should have repaired the depression or warned workers of its existence.

Toledo, Ohio – A man trimming trees was electrocuted when he was working near overhead power lines. He was elevated approximately 35 feet, and he was holding a cable suspended from the boom of the aerial lift. The boom came within two feet of the power line, and a power surge between the two cables caused an electric shock to pass through the man's body. Electricity from the power line had to be cut to remove the man from the aerial lift.

Lift Equipment – August 2002

Seneca, Mo. – Two men in separate vehicles were injured after the boom of an aerial work platform attached to the back of a tractor-trailer swung loose and struck both cars on a highway. Another driver

on the highway saw the accident and said the boom broke free, hitting a dirt mound on the side of the road and a car dealership lot. The boom then catapulted back across the trailer into oncoming traffic, where it hit the two cars, injuring the drivers. Both cars drove into a ditch on the side of the highway. One driver sustained minor injuries, while the other driver was air lifted to a hospital after spending more than 20 minutes pinned under his car. The Missouri Department of Transportation conducted a safety inspection on the aerial work platform, which concluded in a citation for the truck driver for failing to secure the load. Traffic was detoured on the highway for more than two hours as the machine was reloaded onto the back of the truck.

Kent, N.Y. – A tree trimmer died after falling from the platform of an aerial lift. He was raised about 30 feet when the boom suddenly fell and dropped him to the ground. He was ejected upon ground impact.

Police officers performed CPR on the man, but he died from massive head trauma. Police impounded the vehicle for inspection. OSHA was contacted and is expected to investigate the accident.

Laurinburg, N.C. – A man was hospitalized after touching a power line while working from an aerial work platform. The man had been working on a well in his backyard. He had chained a pipe from inside the well to the platform and lifted it up about 20 feet when either he or the pipe touched the power line. Upon contact, an explosion occurred and knocked the man unconscious. His 11-year-old son, who had been playing in the yard, called his grandmother, who then called for an ambulance. Before paramedics arrived, the man became conscious and started lowering the lift again, but family members feared he would become shocked again. Rescue workers unchained the pipe and helped the man lower the lift until it was clear of power lines. Then, he was taken to a hospital. Injuries suffered included burns to his head, neck, chest, and arm.

San Bernardino, Calif. – A man fell 17 feet from the platform of an aerial lift and died. He was trimming mistletoe from a tree when the accident happened. Witnesses said the man stood up from the fall, walked a couple steps, and collapsed. He was pronounced dead three hours later.

Lift Equipment – September/October 2002

Elkin, N.C. – Two men were seriously injured when the boom lift they were working from toppled over, causing the men to fall more than 40 feet from the lift's platform. Both men were scraping paint from a building where the accident occurred. The county director of emergency services said the workers fell 24 feet from the lift, and then they tumbled 20 feet down an embankment. One man broke his leg, and the other man suffered rib and spleen injuries.

Investigators concluded one of the lift's tires had a leak. When the tire went flat, the boom lift toppled over with the workers in it. The project manager said the workers did not know about the leak. "We are going to slow down [the project] to make sure all safety precautions are in place," she said.

Richmond, N.Y. – Two people who were attaching American flags to telephone poles were injured when the aerial lift they were using began to roll backwards. A man was about 30 feet up in the personnel basket, while a woman assisting the elevated man jumped in the cab of the truck in an attempt to stop it. Before she was able to halt the aerial lift, the truck tipped over, pinning her foot inside the cab. The man suffered rib injuries when he fell from the platform, but he was able to free the woman from the cab by cutting off her shoe.

Columbia, Tenn. – A worker elevated more than 40 feet from the ground was killed when a tree he was cutting knocked him out of a personnel basket. The operator owned the truck-mounted aerial lift, and he was pruning a tree for a friend when a 35-foot section of the tree toppled over and knocked him

out of the basket. The tree landed on the utility truck, cracking the windshield and crushing the hood. The operator sustained massive internal injuries from the fall and was airlifted to the hospital, where he later died.

Lift Equipment – November 2002

New York – Two maintenance workers in a personnel basket dangled 200 feet over a river for nearly an hour after the aerial lift's boom malfunctioned. Instead of lowering the basket, the boom tipped the basket on its side and dipped under the middle divider of the bridge roadway. The workers crouched inside the basket, which was tilted 90°, and tried to avoid sliding out and falling into the river. The trapped men radioed other bridge workers, who made an emergency call to rescue the men. Rescue workers were unable to fix the aerial lift's mechanical problem. An emergency service worker and another bridge worker climbed into the basket of a similar aerial lift used for underbridge inspections, and they were swung under the bridge toward the trapped men.

"The bucket was on its side," the emergency service officer said. "They had their backs pushed against the floor. They were clinging to it like an over-turned lifeboat." The officer secured lifelines around the trapped workers and helped them climb into the rescue basket. However, he said he never thought about the rescue bucket's capacity, or how it would hold up with four people in it. "I just wanted to get them out of there," he said.

Meriden, Conn. – A truck-mounted aerial lift operator broke his leg when the machine he was working from toppled over on its side. The operator had been using the basket to pick up light bulbs and fixtures from the grass. Another worker on-site said they were almost finished when the accident occurred. "I don't know if it was too windy or too much weight on the truck, but I saw it starting to come down," he said. "I told him to bring it back down, but he didn't do it in time, so he just jumped out." After the operator jumped out of the basket, the aerial lift fell on its side into a trash receptacle. OSHA is conducting an investigation.

San Francisco – A bridge construction worker plunged to his death after falling 50 feet from an aerial lift. He had been working inside the bridge's anchorage to help strengthen the concrete beams against earthquakes. A coworker was elevated in another aerial lift nearby. He said he could not see the victim, although they were talking to each other. The coworker said he heard a yell followed by a thump; he rushed down from the lift to help the victim, but he said he could not find a pulse. The victim was still wearing his fall protection gear.

Police officials said they are unclear how the accident occurred, and the focal point of their investigation will be whether proper safety procedures and equipment were used. "He was wearing a harness, but we do not have information non whether he was properly tied off, not tied off at all, or the fall protection system malfunctioned," a Cal-OSHA spokesperson said. "The main focus of the investigation is that it did not operate properly, and it did not prevent the fall. It did not serve its function." The spokesperson said Cal-OSHA's investigation may take up to five months.

Detroit – A painter operating an aerial lift was killed when the lift toppled on its side. The man had been spray-painting trusses 150 feet above the field at a stadium construction site when the accident occurred. Witnesses said the machine tipped over because the lift's outriggers collapsed. The basket crashed into a lower tier of the stadium and killed the painter.

The aerial lift involved in the accident had been inoperable the day before the incident because of a faulty hydraulic pump, another painter on the job said. She said she refused to go up in the lift the day of the accident, fearing it was unsafe. The painting contractor at the site already had received citations for two serious violations, both of which were unrelated to the accident. Police and state regulators are investigating.

Lift Equipment – January 2003

Vero Beach, Fla. – A man was elevating an aerial lift's 55-foot boom from the ground when it collided with a power line and knocked out electricity for several blocks. He was positioning the boom and planned to climb up to the basket to install a new highway sign when the boom hit three 7,000-volt power lines. The operator said he was not sure if the gear slipped or the lift's power died – everything happened so fast. No one was in the personnel basket during the accident, and the operator was not injured.

Authorities were worried that the only thing keeping the boom from crashing onto the highway were the power lines. The sign replacement company rented a boom truck to remove the equipment. Traffic was closed for about one hour while the accident was cleared.

Lift Equipment – February 2003

Sedalia, Mo. – Working 30 feet in the air, an operator was repairing a house chimney when his truck-mounted aerial lift contacted a high-voltage power line. The lift's boom first hit a cable television line, and then it created a circuit when the top rail of the platform touched the electric wire, leaving the man severely burned.

"He was hanging over the rail of the platform just jerking and shaking," an eyewitness said. "There was smoke coming off his clothes. It was terrible being so close but not being able to do anything." From only two blocks away, a police officer ran to the scene followed by firefighters. Despite the quick response time, rescue workers had to wait for utility personnel to arrive. "We were just trying to get him to sit still," the officer said.

As the man was sitting on the floor of the platform, a service man put on safety gloves and lowered the lift through the maze of wires. The chief said using the gloves was much faster than shutting off electrical service to de-energize the lines.

After being sent to a local clinic, the man was flown by helicopter to a regional hospital, where he was listed in serious condition.

Peabody, Maine – A man suffered broken ribs, an injured wrist, and head lacerations after falling 25 feet from an aerial lift. He was operating the lift while constructing a roof at a school when he lost his footing and fell. Although he was wearing fall protection gear, coworkers found him unconscious and face down on the ground. OSHA is investigating the accident.

Lift Equipment – March 2003

Marysville, Wash. – A 47-year-old Oregon man was in serious condition after falling 30 feet from an aerial platform while restring the Marysville water tower. According to witnesses, the platform was raised about 30 to 40 feet when it collapsed in the air, snapped two main power lines, and ultimately landed on the bed of a pickup truck, damaging a section of the sidewalk. Not realizing someone was on the platform, the truck owner said he heard the popping of electric wires and then the crunching sound of metal as the platform smashed into his vehicle. The worker suffered head injuries and spent the night in intensive care. Power was restored to area businesses within two hours after the accident, and the water tower's park was closed overnight. Investigators said the cause of the collapse was unknown.

Mio, Mich. – A welder fell nearly 50 feet from a truck-mounted aerial lift when the cement storage tower he was maintaining collapsed. The excavating company at the work site turned off all equipment and stopped working after the accident. The man was rushed to the hospital where he was

listed in stable condition. The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating the incident, but MiOSHA said it is too early to know if the welder was following proper safety procedures.

Meriden, Conn. – A truck-mounted aerial lift operator broke his leg when the machine he was working from toppled over on its side. The operator had been using the basket to pick up light bulbs and fixtures from the grass. He and a coworker were just about finished with the job when the accident occurred. “I don’t know if it was too windy, or if there was too much weight on the truck, but I saw it starting to come down,” the coworker said. “I told him to bring it back down, but he didn’t do it in time, so he just jumped out.” After the operator jumped out of the basket, the aerial lift fell on its side into a trash receptacle. OSHA is conducting an investigation.

Lift Equipment – April 2003

Cowarts, Ala. – An accident at a dairy facility killed a father and son painting team. The son was painting a storage silo from an articulating boom lift when its boom touched a 12,000-kV power line. The electric shock threw the man to the ground, his father rushed to help, and he was also electrocuted after coming into contact with the electrified boom lift or his son. The electric current also started a fire in the lift’s gasoline motor, which burned the two bodies. Firefighters arrived on the scene but were forced to delay their assistance until Alabama Power authorities shut off power to the lines. A deputy coroner pronounced the men dead on the scene. “I think they were dead immediately,” he said. OSHA was investigating the scene on the day of the accident, but because the painting contractors were not employees of the dairy plant, the investigation was transferred to the local sheriff’s department.

Gillette, Wy. – An electrical contractor suffered critical burns after the truck-mounted aerial lift he was working from came in contact with a high-voltage power line. He had just replaced power pole insulators at a roadway intersection and was descending when his platform swung into the 14,400-kV power line. “He was moving the bucket at the time and [was] starting to drop back down to the truck when he swung over into the line,” a fire department official said. The man touched the power line and suffered severe burns on his right arm and hand as well as the right side of his face. A coworker lowered the contractor to the ground and called 911. The man was taken to the hospital and later was transported to a local burn center. Safety inspectors for the company are investigating the incident.

Lift Equipment – June/July 2003

Laurel County, Ky. – A 40-year-old state highway utility worker was critically injured when a passing truck struck the truck-mounted aerial lift he was working from. A sheriff deputy investigating at the scene said the delivery truck was sitting at the stoplight where the utility worker was repairing a light. The truck drove through the intersection at the turn of the light and struck the aerial lift, throwing the man approximately 20 feet to the ground. Witnesses said no traffic cones or traffic directors were present at the scene.

The first police officer to arrive at the site called an EMS unit, and the man was taken to a medical center. He was then flown to an area hospital where he was listed in critical condition and kept in the trauma unit. The investigation is still underway.

St. George, S.C. – A 23-year-old utility worker died instantly after falling 25 to 30 feet from his aerial lift. The man was repairing a sign at a hotel when part of the boom snapped, and the platform tipped on its side. A local coroner confirmed the man was wearing a safety harness at the time of the

accident, but he hadn't locked it into place. "I'm sure that he meant to lock it on, but for some reason he didn't," he said. "We're not sure if it would have saved his life, but he would have had a much better chance of survival." An autopsy revealed the exact cause of death was a skull fracture and cerebral contusions from head injuries.

Pace, Fla. – A tree service worker died from severe head and chest trauma when the boom of his aerial lift collapsed, and the platform fell 50 feet. The man was trimming trees when the boom suddenly bent backward. A county sheriff deputy said the boom's collapse caused the platform to fall into the bed of the truck. Emergency personnel arrived shortly on the scene and transported the man to an area hospital where he was pronounced dead. An accident reconstruction engineer is determining the exact cause of the accident.

West Hanover, Pa. – A 45-year old man died from multiple traumatic injuries after falling 24 feet from an aerial work platform inside a warehouse. The man was rushed to a local hospital and died several hours later. One OSHA representative said the aerial work platform was raised up to pick things off a rack in the warehouse. The cause of the accident is unknown and under investigation by OSHA.

Lift Equipment – August 2003

Allentown, Pa. – A truck-mounted aerial lift operator's safety harness saved him from serious injury after a delivery truck struck his platform below the traffic light where he was working. After the impact, the aerial lift surged through the intersection with the worker still in the raised platform. "He was bounced around on top," said a police inspector on the scene. "When the truck cleared the signal, the bucket dropped." The fiberglass platform hit the ground, and the worker's safety harness left him dangling from the boom about 8 to 10 feet off the ground, witnesses said. The man was lowered to the ground, taken to a local hospital, and was later released. The accident is under investigation.

Corbin, Ky. – A Kentucky Department of Transportation worker was severely injured after an 18-wheel tractor-trailer struck his aerial lift, which he positioned on the median of a busy street to change a broken light bulb. The man was working nearly 15 feet off the ground on the platform when the impact of the truck's collision knocked him to the ground. "The truck hit the bucket, and it just broke loose," said a witness at the scene. "Then I watched the guy fall from it—head first onto the road. He hit thought, then sort of quivered a little, and then it knocked him out." A police officer arrived on the scene, and the man was taken to an area hospital. The incident is under investigation.

Meriden, Conn. – Two workers, ages 47 and 50, were electrocuted while washing the windows of a downtown office building. The men were working from a rented aerial work platform in the alley alongside the building and had extended it to the upper story. A worker noticed from inside the building that the two men weren't moving and called 911. Firefighters who arrived on the scene said the platform was less than a foot below power lines. "When we got there, the construction basket was up, the pressure hose was dangling, the men were down inside the basket, and primary wires were probably a foot overhead," a fire captain said. "The basket wasn't in contact with the wires. When they didn't respond to us, we double-checked to make sure there was no contact, and it wasn't energized, then we lowered the basket. EMS determined they were deceased." Although the exact time and cause of death is unknown, police estimated "from all outward appearances, both men died up there, and both were electrocuted." OSHA is investigating the accident.

Lift Equipment – September 2003

Broken Arrow, Okla. – A 54-year-old man was killed when the boom lift he was operating fell into an orchestra pit of the church where he was working to help construct a new sanctuary. The man was thrown from the platform and struck his head on another boom lift in the area. He was airlifted to the local hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

Union City, Tenn. – A 28-year-old worker died and another was critically injured when a boom lift they were working from collapsed at a school gymnasium. According to a county coroner, the men had unhooked a speaker from the top of the ceiling and were preparing to repair a sound system when the elevated platform collapsed and fell to one side, dropping the men 50 feet to the floor. A third worker, who was stationed on the floor, remained uninjured. The critically injured man was airlifted to the hospital. OSHA is investigating the matter.

Clinton, Iowa – A tree trimmer suffered critical injuries after falling 35 feet from a truck-mounted aerial lift platform. Witnesses said the man fell out of the platform headfirst and landed on his back on top of a tree limb lying on the ground. Five officials would not comment on the circumstances of the accident, but one person on the scene speculated a stabilizer on the platform broke. The man's neighbors called 911, and paramedics arrived at the scene shortly after. The man was taken by ambulance to a convenient spot for a helicopter to pick him up for transport to the nearest hospital.

Lift Equipment – October/November 2003

Plainville, Mass. – A 47-year-old owner of an electrical contractor company suffered serious injuries after falling 40 feet from an aerial lift. He and another worker were using the machine to pull metal stakes out of the ground at a restaurant site, police said. They had rigged a rope to their platform and were using a pulley to pull out the stakes when the accident occurred. The aerial lift's boom collapsed, and the man fell into the back of the truck. A police sergeant said the man fell out of the platform as the boom folded. "The cable snapped on the boom," said one witness who worked for the man. "The boom came flying right down. He fell out of the bucket on his way down." The man was unconscious when emergency personnel arrived. He was listed in critical condition with severe head injuries at a local hospital's intensive care unit. Investigators are working to determine the cause of the accident.

Mendham Township, N.J. – A 44-year-old man who runs a tree service company was seriously injured when the truck-mounted aerial lift he was trimming trees from tipped over on its side. A police lieutenant said the man was approximately 25 to 30 feet above ground when the accident took place. The man suffered a collapsed lung and internal injuries, said the lieutenant. He was taken to the hospital and kept in the intensive care unit where he was listed in serious condition.

Lift Equipment – January/February 2004

Blue Island, Ill. – An engineer drowned after a barge struck the truck-mounted underbridge inspection unit he was working from, and he and a co-worker were thrown from their platform into a river. Both men were suspended underneath the bridge when the accident occurred, and they tried to swim to shore. One man made it to safety. Although barge workers tried to throw a line out to the other man, he was unable to reach it, said a Coast Guard investigator. After the man was finally pulled to shore three hours later, emergency workers tried to resuscitate him.

"There were no vital signs, and we gave up life support attempts," said a fire chief. "With the cold water, we thought we'd have a chance to save him, but we couldn't." Both men had been wearing fall

protection but had detached themselves, fearing the impending crash from the barge, said the investigator. Neither wore a flotation device.

Once the engineers noticed a total of three barges being pushed by a towboat coming toward them, they tried maneuvering the platform out of the way but were unsuccessful, the fire chief said. Paint marks on the barge indicated the basket scraped the top of the barge, which came to a stop and backed up. When it backed up, the barge caught the basket, tilted it sideways, and propelled the men into the water, he said.

The engineering company was hired to perform detailed inspections of the bridge to identify faults. The Coast Guard and OSHA are investigating the incident.

Centerville, Va. – Two construction workers died instantly after falling from a truck-mounted aerial lift platform. The men, who had been working on the jobsite for two weeks, were painting the side of a building while elevated in the lift, police said. After the aerial lift tipped and fell to the ground, both men were pronounced dead at the scene.

SAMPLE