

CASE 3. 32-year old male died during installation of decorative cylindrical columns on to existing square columns on new building exterior.

On January 28, 2002, a 32-year old male died when he was installing decorative cylindrical columns on to existing square red iron columns on the exterior of a new health food store. He was working on a column located near the entrance of the building and located directly under a skylight in the soffit of the exterior overhang of the building. A Grove Nugget B series self propelled aerial work platform was used by the victim. The work platform had unguarded moveable controls, and were located at the narrow end of the work platform where the victim was working. He was installing a 2x2 steel angle and a wooden 2x4 to the red iron column. It appears he was reaching to attach either the angle or the 2x4 and inadvertently activated the lift controls by leaning on them or catching them with his coat. Both the lifting controls and movement controls were activated, and he was propelled into the column, which caught the victim between the aerial platform guardrail system and soffit of the exterior of the building entrance.

MIOSHA issued the following serious citations to the employer:

1. There was no employee at the work site who had a valid certificate in first aid training. (General Rules, Part 1, Rule 408.40132(3))
2. There was no protection provided over the aerial platform control switches of the directional controls to prevent unintentional activation of the controls. No overriding controls were provided on controls that would need to be activated prior to controls being functional to prevent unintended operation of the controls of the aerial platform. (Aerial Work Platforms, Part 32, Rule R408.43205(3))
3. Employees were not properly trained the manufacturer's operating instruction and safety rules and provisions of the subrules in Part 32 Aerial work platforms. Aerial Work Platforms, Part 32, Rule R408.43207(8))
4. The manufacturer's operating and safety rules were not maintained in a legible manner on the aerial work platform. (Aerial Work Platforms, Part 32, Rule R408.43207(9))