

Case 141. 59-year-old operating engineer for a heavy equipment company was killed while unloading a Genie JLG from a trailer.

59-year-old male operating engineer for a heavy equipment company was killed while unloading a Genie JLG from a trailer. The driver of the tractor-trailer hauling the JLG positioned the trailer at a dock. The driver released the JLG securement chains. A yard person for the company receiving the JLG requested that the driver cut the plastic tie securing the JLG control panel keys. The trailer brakes had not yet been locked and no wheel chocks/blocks were positioned. Using the side controls, the yard person started the machine and moved the selector from ground control to basket control. The decedent, who worked for a third employer, was present at the site to pick up a piece of equipment for that employer. Unbeknownst to the truck driver and the yard person, the decedent had climbed into the bucket of the JLG. Upon discovering that the decedent was in the bucket, the yard person crossed to the other side of the trailer going under the boom so that he could assist the decedent by watching the wheels to make sure they stayed on the trailer. The decedent began to drive the JLG off of the trailer and the yard person directed the driver to set the trailer brakes. Just before the JLG started onto the ramp, the tractor and flat bed trailer skidded away from the dock. The decedent was "tossed" back and forth within the bucket and fell to the floor of the basket. The yard person switched the JLG operation back to ground control, lowered the basket, ran to the yard shack, and instructed another employee to call 911. The JLG was partially on the trailer. The rear of the JLG was resting on the loading dock and the under carriage of the JLG was resting on the rear of the trailer. The rear wheels of the JLG were off of the trailer approximately two to six inches off the ground. Skid marks in the dirt appeared to have been from the second and third axles of the tractor.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division could not determine an employer-employee relationship, so no citations were issued.