

INCIDENT FACTS

REPORT #:

22MI055

REPORT DATE:

September 8, 2023

INCIDENT DATE:

June 24, 2022

WORKER:

49-year-old

INDUSTRY:

Residential
Remodelers

OCCUPATION:

Construction Laborer

EVENT TYPE:

Fall



Window opening used to dispose of demolition debris.

Construction Laborer Dies from 16 Foot Fall

SUMMARY

A 49-year old Construction Laborer was killed when the elevated job built debris container he entered fell to the ground. The Construction Laborer, an independent contractor, was working for a residential remodeling company. He was a mason by trade but was also performing demolition and interior carpentry. He was onsite with the owner of the residential remodeling company and another laborer. Together they were remodeling a second-floor apartment above a retail establishment.

The Construction Laborer was removing demolition debris from the apartment through a 2nd story window. The apartments window's lower sash had been opened leaving an approximately 30 by 34 inch opening that was 28 inches above the floor. A Pettibone B-66 Telehandler was used to elevate the debris container outside the building. It was 2 feet below the window opening pressed up against the building. The Pettibone B-66 Telehandler is a rough terrain telescoping forklift that features a diesel engine, 3-speed automatic transmission, four-wheel steering, 3-stage mast, 32-foot maximum lift height, and a 6,000 pound maximum lift capacity. The debris container was approximately 4 feet wide, 8 feet long, and 42 inches high.

At the time of the incident the Construction Laborer was removing demolition debris through the 2nd story window, and he had crawled through the window opening into the debris container to rearrange materials. The container was setting on the forks of the telehandler but was not attached. The container tipped and both the container and the Construction Laborer fell 16 feet to the concrete ground. Police and EMS arrived on the scene. He was pronounced dead at the scene.



Pettibone B-66 Telehandler

REQUIREMENTS

Employers must:

- Ensure that workers are not exposed to unsecured elevated loads when using low and high lift trucks per ANSI B56.1-1993 (adopted by reference). See [MIOSHA Construction Safety Standard Part 13. Mobile Equipment](#)
- Ensure that workers are not exposed to fall hazards 6 feet or more above lower levels, including wall openings, by protecting them with the use of a guardrail system, safety net system, or personal fall arrest system. See [MIOSHA Construction Safety Standard Part 45. Fall Protection](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

MIFACE investigators concluded that, to help prevent similar occurrences, employers should:

- Survey the worksite to assess the risks of working at height.
 - Discuss risks identified with all workers and ensure they understand methods available to mitigate those risks.
- Provide an appropriate guardrail system, safety net, or ensure the use of fall protection equipment when work occurs around unguarded wall openings.
- Secure attachments to the forks during the use of low and high lift trucks to prevent shifting.

[MIFACE](#) (Michigan Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation), Michigan State University (MSU) Occupational & Environmental Medicine, 909 Fee Road, 117 West Fee Hall, East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1315.

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CITATIONS

MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division issued the following serious citations at the conclusion of its investigation.

- Serious: 1926.602(c)(1)(vi): CS PART 13, MOBILE EQUIPMENT, REF 408.41301
 - All industrial trucks in use shall meet the applicable requirements of design, construction, stability, inspection, testing, maintenance, and operation, as defined in American National Standards Institute B56.1-1993, Low Lift and High Lift Trucks.
 - Workers utilizing an industrial truck did not follow the applicable standards of ANSI B56.1-1993 as required by CS PART 13, MOBILE EQUIPMENT. Remodeling workers were exposed to an elevated unsecured load.
- Serious: 1926.501(b)(14): CS PART 45, FALL PROTECTION, REF 408.44502
 - Each employee working on, at, above, or near wall openings (including those with chutes attached) where the outside bottom edge of the wall opening is 6 feet (1.8 m) or more above lower levels and the inside bottom edge of the wall opening is less than 39 inches (1.0 m) above the walking/working surface, shall be protected from falling by the use of a guardrail system, a safety net system, or a personal fall arrest system.
 - Workers were engaged in construction activities and exposed to wall opening hazards of heights greater than 6 feet without fall protection in the following instances: Instance A) East Window, Instance B) West Window.



Ground level view up to second floor apartment.

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