

Case 85. 52-year old man died while unloading a 40-foot aerial boom lift truck from a dual axle trailer with two flip ramps mounted on the back.

On June 29, 2004, a 52-year old man died while unloading a 40-foot aerial boom lift truck from a trailer. He had delivered the aerial boom lift truck to the incident site. The trailer was a dual axle trailer with two flip ramps mounted on the back. The width of the trailer from its outside edges was 76½ inches. The distance between the inside edges of the ramps was 50 inches. The distance between the inside wheels of the lift was 57½ inches. The victim was unloading the aerial lift from the trailer while in the lift platform without wearing a safety harness. The lift basket did not have a harness attachment point to which he could have anchored a safety harness. He did not have assistance in unloading the truck from the trailer bed. In order to unload the boom truck from the trailer, the victim would have had to raise the boom to allow the front tires to contact the ground. It is unknown how high the basket was raised. As he was driving it off the trailer bed, it appears that the lift truck's right side tires came off the right ramp to the inside. When this happened, the entire right side of the truck dropped to the ground causing the victim to be catapulted into the air, with his feet approximately 3-4 feet above the platform guardrail. While coming back down, he struck a steel support bar on the bucket. He collapsed at the bottom of the basket. A witness called 911 and began first aid measures. Emergency personnel arrived and the witness and emergency personnel lifted him out of the bucket onto the ground and initiated CPR. Emergency personnel took the victim to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead.

MIOSHA issued the following Serious and Other citations to the employer:

Serious:

AERIAL WORK PLATFORMS, PART 32, RULE 3209(11).

A safety harness with a lanyard which is in compliance with construction safety standard, Part 45 Fall protection, being R408.44501 et seq. of the Michigan Administrative Code, and which is affixed to attachment points provided and approved by the manufacturer shall be provided by the employer and used by any occupant of an aerial work platform described in the provisions of R408.43202(a) and (c) and Figures 1 and 3. A fall arrest system shall only be used where the aerial lift is designed to withstand the vertical and lateral loads caused by an arrested fall.

Employee was not wearing a safety harness while operating the aerial boom lift.

Serious:

AERIAL WORK PLATFORMS, PART 32, RULE 3209(1).

The aerial work platform shall be used only in accordance with the manufacturer's or owner's operating instructions and safety rules.

No operator's manual available on 40-foot snorklift for employees to operate aerial boom lift in accordance to manufacturer's operating instructions and safety

rules. Employees exposed to the hazards of not having the manual available on the aerial boom lift for reference in operating and safety procedures.

Serious:

AERIAL WORK PLATFORMS, PART 32, RULE 3207(8).

An employer shall provide each employee who will operate the aerial work platform with instruction and training regarding the equipment before a permit is issued or reissued. Such instruction and training shall ensure that each operator is in compliance with the minimum following provisions:

- (a) Is instructed by a qualified person in the intended purpose and function of each of the controls.
- (b) Is trained by a qualified person or reads and understands the manufacturer's or owner's operating instructions and safety rules.
- (c) Understands by reading or by having a qualified person explain, all decals, warnings, and instructions displayed on the aerial work platform.
- (d) Reads and understands the provisions of this subrule and subrules (1) to (7) and (9) of this rule or be trained by a qualified person on their content.

Employer did not provide proper training to employees who will operate 40-foot snorklift aerial boom lift platform with instructions and training for safe operating rules, exposing employees to the hazards associated with aerial lifts.

Other:

AERIAL WORK PLATFORMS, PART 32, RULE 3207(1).

An employer shall provide the operator of an aerial work platform with an aerial work platform permit.

No operator's permit for employees to operate 40-foot snorklift while operating aerial lift.

Other:

GENERAL RULES, PART 1, RULE 114(1).

An employer shall develop, maintain, and coordinate with employees an accident prevention program, a copy of which shall be available at the worksite.

No accident prevention program developed, maintained, or coordinated with employees with instructions for employees in the recognition and avoidance of hazards associated with work operations.