

Case 222. 51-year-old crew supervisor died as a result of a 6036 Skytrack rough terrain forklift overturn to the side.

51-year-old male crew supervisor died as a result of a 6036 Skytrack rough terrain forklift overturn to the side. The decedent's head struck the guardrails of his 4- x 8-foot work platform when the Skytrack overturned. The decedent was elevated approximately 18 feet above the ground. The Skytrack driver was in the process of positioning the decedent so he could install siding to the gable end of a new home under construction. The work platform was positioned lengthways on the forks, 6 feet past the center load distance of the forks, and attached to the to the back of the forks by a ratchet strap. There were no pins to secure the platform to the forks. The Skytrack forks were positioned in manufacturer-designed sleeves that did not go the length of the platform. These sleeves were designed for platform transport not for worker elevation. Three sides of the platform were guarded. The decedent was not wearing fall protection. With the decedent elevated approximately 18 feet, the Skytrack approached the work area. The driver's side rear tire entered a mud hole causing the Skytrack to tip to the driver's side. The basket stayed connected to the forks, but the ratchet strap broke. The decedent rode the basket to the ground and apparently struck his head against the guardrail, and perhaps the ground. Emergency response was called, and the decedent was transported to a local hospital, where he was declared dead a short time later.

MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious and Other-than-Serious citations at the conclusion of its investigation:

SERIOUS: GENERAL RULES, PART 1, Rule 114(1)

An accident prevention program was not developed, maintained, and coordinated with employees:

Employee was thrown from platform when Skytrack fork truck tipped over onto cage side when attempting to position elevator platform on the northwest side of the house. Employees in the process of installing siding to gable end of the house.

SERIOUS: PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, PART 6, RULE 622(1)

A helmet, as prescribed in R408.40621, was not used to protect the employee where a hazard or risk of injury exists from falling or flying objects or particles or from other harmful contacts or exposures.

Employee sustained heavy trauma to his head and neck when 6036 Skytrack rough terrain fork truck with platform tipped over onto cage side when attempting to position elevated platform on the northwest side of house.

SERIOUS: SCAFFOLDS AND SCAFFOLD PLATFORMS, PART 12.

- **RULE 1243(1)**

Before an employee is elevated on a rough terrain forklift truck scaffold, a pre-lift meeting shall be held to review the appropriate requirements and procedures to be followed. The pre-lift meeting shall be attended by all of the following entities:

- a. The lift operator
- b. The signalperson
- c. Employees to be lifted
- d. The person who is responsible for the task to be performed

No pre-lift meeting held to review the appropriate requirements and procedures to be followed when elevating employees in a rough terrain forklift truck scaffold.

- RULE 1243(5)

A work platform shall be in compliance with all of the following requirements:

- A) Except for the guardrail system as specified in construction safety standard Part 21. Guarding of Walking and Working Areas, being R 408.42101 et seq. of the Michigan Administrative Code, be of welded mild steel construction that has a minimum safety factor of 4 times the maximum intended load.
- B) Have continuous guardrail system constructed as follows:
 - i) Have a top rail which is located not less than 36 inches, nor more than 42 inches, above the platform floor and which is constructed to withstand a minimum of 200 lbs of force in any direction.
 - ii) Have a midrail which is installed at mid-height between the top rail and platform floor and which is constructed to withstand a 200-lb side thrust.
 - iii) Have a toe board which is not less than 4 inches in normal height and which is installed not more than ¼ of an inch above the floor around the periphery of the work platform. If the platform has a gate, then the toe board shall be installed on the gate.
- C) Have a wood planking, steel plate, or a steel grating bolted or welded to the bottom of the platform and be maintained free of slip or trip hazards.
- D) Have a permanently affixed sign on the platform that specifies the maximum rated load.
- E) Be easily identifiable by high-visibility color or marking.

No guardrail on open end of 4 X 8 scaffold platform positioned length ways on forks of 6036 Skytrack rough terrain fork truck.

- RULE 1243(9)

If an employee is elevated in a platform on a variable reach lift truck, a personal fall arrest system, including the anchorage required in Part 45. Fall Protection, being R 408.44501 et seq., of the Michigan Administrative Code and Part 6. Personal Protective Equipment, being R408.40601 et seq., of the Michigan Administrative Code, is required and shall be worn when an employee is elevated.

No fall protection used when elevated approximately 18 feet in scaffold platform mounted to forks of 6036 Skytrack rough terrain fork truck.

- RULE 1243(10)
The rough terrain fork truck or the lift truck shall rest on firm footing. Leveling devices and outriggers shall be used where provided on equipment.

6036 Skytrack rough terrain fork truck with platform was not being operated on firm ground. When attempting to position elevated platform, fork truck slid into clay filled mud hole causing Skytrack and platform to tip over on the northwest side of the house.

- RULE 1243(12)
A lift truck platform shall be returned to the ground before a lift truck is repositioned. The forklift shall be moved as close to the work area as possible for final positioning. An employee shall exit the landed platform and re-board the platform only after the lift truck repositioning is completed.

6036 Skytrack rough terrain fork truck with platform was not returned to ground before being repositioned.

- RULE 1243(21)
Floor dimensions parallel to the truck longitudinal centerline shall not be more than 2 times the load center distance listed on the rough terrain forklift truck nameplate. The floor dimension width shall not be more than the overall width of the truck measured across the load bearing tires plus 10 inches (250 mm) on either side. The minimum space for each employee on the platform shall be not less than 18 inches (450 mm) in either direction.

4X8 foot platform positioned length ways on forks of 6036 Skytrack rough terrain fork truck 6 feet past center load distance of forks.