

Case 403. 30-year-old carpenter was electrocuted when the arm of the 125-foot JLG contacted an energized 7,200 volt overhead power line while washing a silo.

A 30-year-old male carpenter was electrocuted when the arm of the 125-foot JLG he was operating contacted an energized 7,200-volt overhead power line while washing a 60-foot tall silo. The decedent was elevated approximately 65 feet in the air power washing the silo. The JLG was positioned approximately 25 feet away from the power lines located across the street from the silo. The top of the basket was approximately 5 feet above the east roof edge of the silo. While the decedent was maneuvering the JLG into position, the arm of the boom contacted the top 7,200-volt power line about 6 feet below the elbow of the arm. A truck driver making a delivery saw the decedent working in the basket. The truck driver heard a noise and turned to see that the JLG had contacted the power line. The driver witnessed a bright light and then the bottom of the JLG start to burn. He called the fire department. He then called up to the decedent to ask if he was alright, and the decedent responded to call for help. The truck driver saw the decedent climb from the inside of the basket to the outside and back in again. It is postulated that the decedent jumped from the basket to the silo roof in an attempt to escape the burning JLG. While on the roof, an electric arc struck the decedent's leg. While waiting for the line to be de-energized, the decedent was witnessed to be partially hanging off of the roof. It appeared to emergency providers that he was caught on something on the roof. He eventually fell from the roof and was declared dead at the scene. The decedent was not wearing a fall harness.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citations to the employer at the conclusion of its investigation.

SERIOUS: AERIAL WORK PLATFORMS, GI PART 58

- **RULE 408.15815(1):** 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 include the following:
 - (a) Instruction by a qualified person in the intended purpose and function of each of the controls.
 - (b) Training by a qualified person or reading and understanding the manufacturer's or owner's operation instructions and safety rules.
 - (c) Understanding by reading or by having a qualified person explain all decals, warnings, and instructions displayed on the aerial work platform.
 - (d) Reading and understanding the provisions of this sub-rule and sub-rules (1) to (9) of this rule or be trained by a qualified person on their content.

(An employee was operating a 125-foot JLG Boom Lift without training, testing, and a permit.)

- RULE 408.15832(1): The employer shall ensure that an aerial work platform shall be operated so that the distances from energized power lines and equipment prescribed in Table 1 are maintained, except for the following:

(a) As prescribed in sub-rule (2) of this rule addressing tree trimming.

(b) As prescribed in sub-rule (3) of this rule addressing telecommunications.

(c) Where insulating barriers are not a part of, or an attachment to, the aerial device that has been erected to prevent physical contact with the lines.

(An employee was operating a 125-foot JLG Boom Lift and made contact with overhead power lines while power washing the silo.)

- RULE 408.15833(5): When aerial work platforms are in use, all traffic control requirements shall be in compliance with Part 6 of the 2011 Michigan Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MMUTCD), which is adopted in R 408.15810, and Construction Safety Part 22, Signals, Signs, Tags, and Barricades, R 408.42201 to R 408.42243, as referenced in R 408.15810.

(There was no traffic control in place while an employee was operating a 125-foot JLG Boom Lift on a public road.)

- RULE 408.15836(1): Any occupant of an aerial work platform described in R 408.15802(a) and (c) and figures 1 and 3 shall use a safety harness.

(A safety harness with a lanyard was not utilized when operating the 125-foot JLG Boom Lift.)