

**Case 443. 38- year-old foreman died when he was crushed between an elevated aerial lift basket and a piece of angle iron.**

A 38-year-old male foreman died when he was crushed between an elevated aerial lift basket and a piece of angle iron. The decedent worked for a mechanical contractor; the mechanical contractor was hired by the firm (Company 2) where the incident took place. Company 2 had rented a Genie Model Z45/25 aerial lift. Company 2 permitted the decedent's employer to use the aerial lift to perform repairs throughout the plant. The decedent drove the aerial lift through the incident opening, a 10-foot 8-inch high piece of angle iron covered by a tarp to shut off a steam/water line shut off valve to perform the repair, and he raised the lift basket. After finishing shutting off the valve, the decedent was required to use the lift at another location in the facility to repair a newly installed pipe that was leaking. To travel to the new location, the decedent did not lower the boom/basket to a height to safely drive under the angle iron; he operated the still elevated aerial lift basket while facing the controls with his back toward the direction of travel. To operate the lift in this configuration, the decedent engaged the drive-enable switch, which was not the recommended position in which to operate the lift. The decedent's back struck the angle iron and he was crushed between the angle iron and the controls of the aerial lift.

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

**SERIOUS: AERIAL WORK PLATFORMS, PART 58, RULE 408.15839(6):**

The employer shall ensure that before and during driving while elevated, an operator of a platform shall do both of the following:

- (a) Look in the direction of, and keep a clear view of, the path of travel and make sure that the path is firm and level.
- (b) Maintain a safe distance from all of the following:
  - (i) Obstacles
  - (ii) Debris
  - (iii) Drop-Offs
  - (iv) Holes
  - (v) Depressions
  - (vi) Ramps
  - (vii) Overhead obstructions
  - (viii) Overhead electrical lines

(ix) Other hazards to safe elevated travel

An employee was crushed between the control panel and an overhead structural member while operating an elevated aerial lift and facing away from the direction of travel in the Cold Mill area.

**SAFETY/HEALTH RECOMMENDATION:**

- Employees should avoid moving any elevated aerial lift more than what would be required to put a basket in position to facilitate work while having to look over their shoulder.
- A spotter should be utilized when moving an aerial lift around areas that pose collision hazards.
- Employees should not drive a self-propelled aerial lift in the elevated or raised position, as it increases the potential to contact an overhead hazard.