

INCIDENT FACTS

REPORT #:

71-175-2018

REPORT DATE:

October 23, 2018

INCIDENT DATE:

February 8, 2018

VICTIM:

39 years old

INDUSTRY:

Commercial and institutional
building construction

OCCUPATION:

Laborer

SCENE:

New apartment building site

EVENT TYPE:

Fall



Incident scene showing the scissor lift from which the laborer fell 60 feet.

[For a slideshow version, click here.](#)



SUMMARY

A 39-year-old construction laborer was severely injured when he fell 60 feet to the ground below. He fell through a gap between the scissor lift he was working from and the building when the deck extension platform of the scissor lift moved.

The incident took place at job site where a new apartment building was being constructed. The victim had been working for the company for two years.

The day before the incident, an employee reported to a foreman that the rental scissor lift had a broken deck extension locking pin. This spring-loaded pin was used to lock the lift's deck extension in place to keep it from moving while in use. The foreman instructed the lift operator to contact the rental company for a replacement pin and continue to use the lift until a new pin arrived.

On the day of the incident, the replacement pin had not arrived. The victim and another laborer removed a portion of the lift's platform railing so that they could unload insulation bundles from the lift onto the building's sixth floor. They extended the platform to allow access to the floor. The other laborer positioned himself toward the rear of the platform. As he was using his foot to brace the extension to keep it from moving, he passed a bundle toward the victim who was standing on the extension. The victim received the bundle from the laborer and began rolling it along the platform. As he was doing this, the extension rolled back into the retracted position, causing him to lose his balance and fall through the gap between the building and the lift. He landed 60 feet below. He suffered numerous severe injuries. After more than eight months off work he was ready to return to light duty work.

REQUIREMENTS

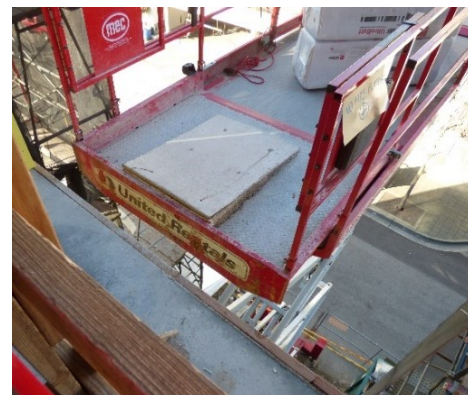
Employers must ensure that operators do a prestart inspection before using an aerial device. A qualified person must examine or test any items that are thought to be unsafe to determine if they constitute a safety hazard. All unsafe items must be replaced or repaired before use.

See [WAC 296-869-20030](#)

RECOMMENDATIONS

FACE investigators concluded that, to help prevent similar occurrences:

- Do not use damaged or malfunctioning equipment or machinery. Tag and remove from service until it has been repaired by a qualified technician.
- Consider alternative means or equipment to deliver materials to elevation, such as a material hoist or reach forklift.
- Equipment rental companies should have equipment inspected frequently and make all necessary repairs before use. They should also establish a preventative maintenance program based on manufacturer's recommendations, frequency of use, and demands placed on equipment.
- If scissor lift guardrails are removed, employees are required to be protected by the appropriate means of fall protection, such as a personal fall arrest system or fall restraint system.



Incident scissor lift showing the gap between the lift platform and the building through which the laborer fell 60 feet.