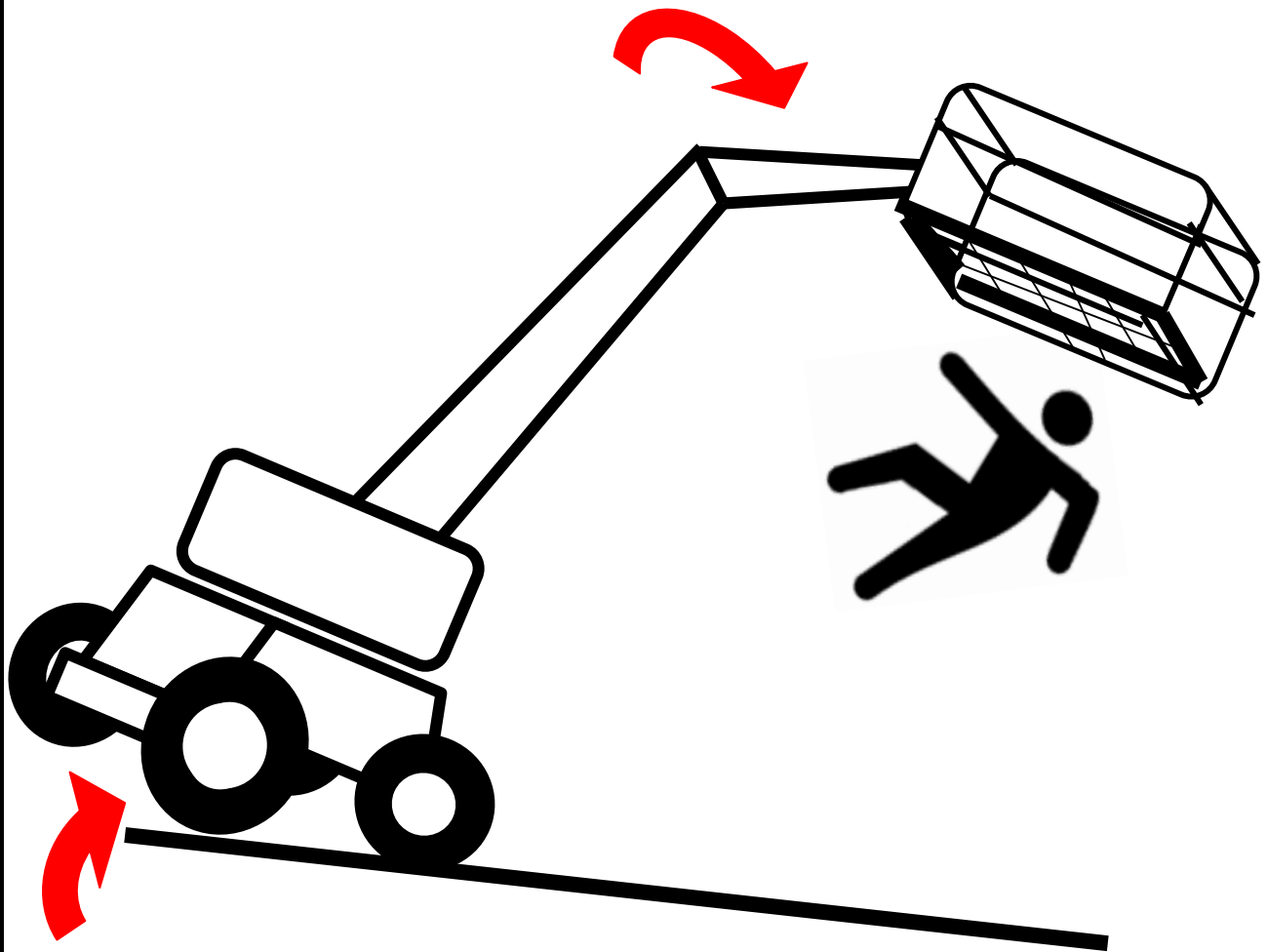


FATAL HAZARD



- Do not operate aerial lifts on grades, side slopes or ramps that exceed the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Wear safety harnesses and tie-off to the manufacturer's provided anchorage point.

Worker killed when ejected from aerial lift

INSTRUCTIONS: Hold the guide with this side facing you and the other side facing your crew. Then read the story.

Our safety talk today is about a 31-year-old worker who suffered head/abdominal injuries after being ejected 30 feet out of a boom lift and died two weeks later. The worker was repairing communication equipment on top of a light pole. The repair was complete and the lift was lowered to allow the co-worker to exit the lift bucket and conduct tests on the ground. The worker re-entered the lift bucket to ascend and take photographs of the completed work. He raised the boom lift up to its maximum angle with the counterweight downhill on a slope. This caused the lift to tip over ejecting the worker from the bucket. He had a full body harness on but it was not connected to the anchorage point on the lift.



Photo from KVAL.com

So here are some ways we can prevent something like this from happening where we work.

- Do not operate aerial lifts on grades, side slopes or ramps that exceed the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Operators must be trained to understand and follow the manufacturer's operating instruction(s), operating limitations and restrictions and rules.
- Wear safety harnesses and tie-off to the manufacturer provided anchorage point within the platform at all times when you're in the basket. This includes when you are lowered and moving the equipment to another location.

ASK: "Does anyone have more ideas or comments to share?"

Pause for discussion. Then see if there are ways to take action.

END WITH ACTION PLAN (ideas for what to ask or say).

- "Does anyone have ideas for improving training on lifts or equipment we operate?"
- "How do we ensure that employees are trained before they operate equipment?"
- Discuss a similar situation at your current site
- Express your commitment to training people for each machine they operate
- Commit to follow-up at the next safety talk