

HAZARD



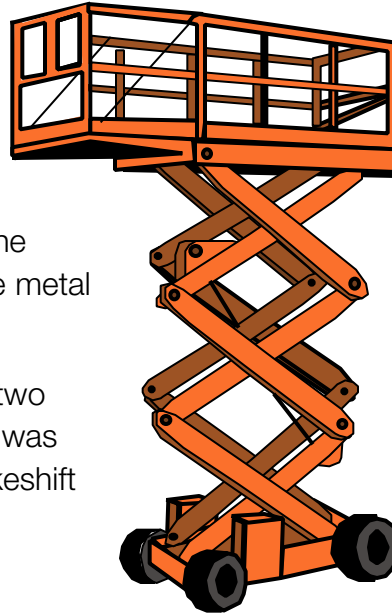
ALERT

IMPROPER BLOCKING CAUSES FATAL ACCIDENT

An experienced heavy equipment mechanic was fatally injured, and another suffered injuries, while working under the raised platform of a scissor lift.

Prior to starting work on the hydraulic system, the mechanics used blocking devices other than the metal pins designed for safe blocking.

When they disconnected the main hose for the two hydraulic lifting cylinders, the hydraulic pressure was released, which resulted in the failure of the makeshift blocking devices. The weight of the platform immediately came down on the two mechanics.



Recommended Preventive Actions

- Always use the safety blocking devices recommended or provided by the manufacturer to ensure that the platform is properly blocked.
- An employer shall ensure that an employee does not work under or go under the raised parts of any powered mobile equipment unless the parts are adequately blocked and no employee shall work under or go under such raised parts unless the parts are adequately blocked. [Section 229(3) *Reg. 91-191*]
- Where a machine is shut down for cleaning, maintenance, adjustments or repairs, an employer shall ensure that no employee works on the machine until an employee puts the machine in a zero energy state. [Section 239(4)(a) *Reg. 91-191*]
- An employer shall establish a written lock out procedure for a machine and ensure that an employee who may have to lock out a machine has been adequately trained to lock out the machine. [Section 239(3) *Reg. 91-191*]

Don't take short cuts! In this case, by moving the scissor lift ahead only a few metres, to an area with more clearance, the proper pins could have been used and the accident avoided.

Prevention Services, Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission
500 Beaverbrook Court, 4th floor, Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 5X4 (506) 453-2467 Fax (506) 453-7982

WHSCC
All Accidents are Preventable

Issued May 2001

Check out the CCOHS website, www.ccohs.ca, or call 1 800 263-8466 for health and safety information.