

MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION OF IN-GROUND HYDRAULIC AUTOMOTIVE HOISTS

Poorly serviced and maintained in-ground hydraulic hoists used in service stations, repair garages, and maintenance facilities, have resulted in death and injury to workers working beneath vehicles and machinery supported by these hoists.

Hydraulic floor hoists that are built into the structure and set under concrete floors have no inspection plates or openings through which to undertake visual inspection to determine if service problems exist.

- It is extremely important that hydraulic fluid levels are checked regularly, at least once a week.
- If continual topping up of the hydraulic fluid is necessary to maintain fluid levels, then it is clear there is a leakage problem, and the source of the leak must be found and repaired.
- When the hydraulic hoist is in operation and it is noted that the hoist is not capable of supporting the load (the hoist is moving down slowly or its operation is in any other way erratic or unpredictable), the hoist must be shut down immediately and not used until all necessary repairs are completed.
- If there are any doubts as to the structural or mechanical integrity of the system, qualified maintenance and service personnel must be consulted to ensure that the hoist is in good operating condition.

