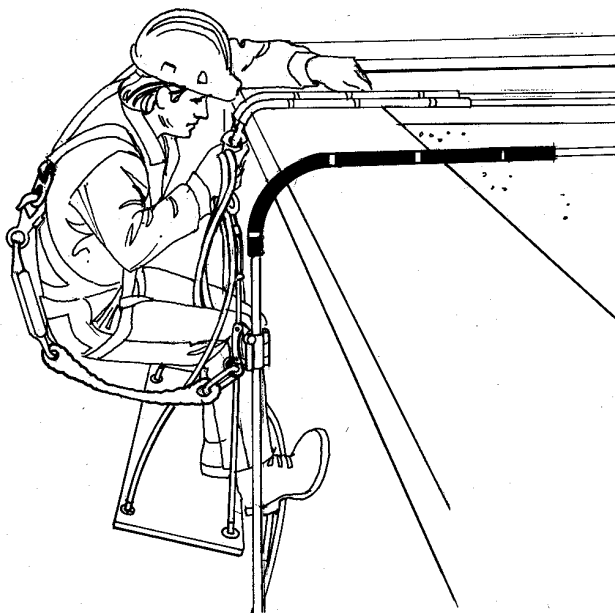


Operation of Bosun's Chairs - Safety Requirements

A Manitoba employer was recently issued a fine in the amount of \$4,600 regarding the unsafe operation of a bosun's chair (suspended work platform) near electrical power lines. This bulletin is intended to clarify the safety requirements for those who operate or permit operation of bosun's chairs.



instruction.

Operation of Equipment Near Electrical Power Lines

As set out in Section 149(1) of Manitoba Regulation 108/88R, "other equipment" applies to bosun's chairs equipped with manual or powered climbers, and requires a minimum safe work clearance of 10 feet (3 meters) from any electrical transmission or distribution system that could endanger the life or safety of equipment operators.

If a job requires work within 10 feet of electrical power lines, Section 149(1)(a) requires that prior to suspension of a bosun's chair, the employer must contact Manitoba Hydro for assistance and

Notification to Workplace Safety and Health Division

Every employer is required to notify the Division at least 8 hours prior to rigging a suspended work platform (including bosun's chairs equipped with manual or powered climbers) in excess of 10 feet (3 meters) in height.

In addition to the information provided above, it is essential for the employer to provide bosun chair operators with training in the proper selection, rigging, operation, and maintenance of equipment. The use of fall-arrest systems must be a major focus of instruction.

