

May 2021

# HAZARD ALERT



## Scissor Lift



In March 2021, a worker was seriously injured when he fell from an elevated scissor lift. As his co-worker operated the controls from within the elevated lift, the worker - attempting to reach an object - leaned out between the two guardrails, lost his balance, and fell to the ground.

### Cause

The following factors contributed to this workplace incident:

- Leaning too far beyond the scissor lift guardrails
- Failure to wear a fall arrest system while operating a scissor lift
- Failure to properly plan ahead to ensure necessary safety equipment was on the work site

*Power Operated Elevating Work Platforms are aerial lifts that are also commonly referred to as scissor or boom lifts.*

## Legislated Requirements

The following legislative requirements under PEI's *Scaffolding Regulations and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act* relate to this Hazard Alert.

Scaffolding Regulations – Section 19 (12) states “An employer of a worker who uses a power operated elevating work platform shall ensure that the worker is protected against falling by a fall arrest system that complies with the Fall Protection Regulations.”

OHS Act – Section 12(1) states;

An employer shall ensure

- (a) that every reasonable precaution is taken to protect the occupational health and safety of persons at or near the workplace;
- (c) that such information, instruction, training, supervision and facilities are provided as are necessary to ensure the occupational health and safety of the workers;
- (e) that workers are made familiar with the proper use of all safety features or devices, equipment and clothing required for their protection.

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## Prevention Strategies

The following strategies are recommended when using a power operated elevating work platform for working at heights:

- Only competent workers should be allowed to use the lift.
- Inspect the lift prior to utilizing it and ensure:
  - all controls are functioning correctly;
  - guardrail systems are in place; and
  - lift is free of unsafe defects.
- Never stand or sit on the guardrails. Keep work within easy reach to avoid leaning away from the lift.
- Wear and maintain an appropriate fall protection system and tie-off to the manufacture provided anchorage point within the platform at all times when in the basket. This includes when lowering and moving the equipment to another location.
- Be mindful of weather conditions, primarily wind, that may create an unstable work platform when elevated.
- Implement a fall protection plan that:
  - provides procedures to assemble, maintain, inspect, use and disassemble the fall arrest system; and
  - includes procedures for the rescue of workers if they have fallen and are suspended by the fall arrest system and unable to self-rescue.
- Except in a case of an emergency, ground controls shall not be operated on an occupied lift when a worker is elevated. Lift occupant shall be in full control of the lift at all times.

*A Competent Worker has the knowledge, training and experience to do the assigned work safely. This person also has knowledge of the OHS Act and Regulations that apply to the assigned work and ensures the health and safety of persons in, and around the workplace.*



For more information, please contact:  
Workers Compensation Board of PEI  
Phone 902-368-5697  
Toll Free 1-800-237-5049  
wcb.pe.ca



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To report a serious workplace injury, contact the occupational health & safety line at 902-628-7513