

# Fatality Narrative

## Aerial Work Platform Operator Pinned Between Basket and Overhead Beam \*

**Industry:** Framing contractors.

**Occupation:** Carpenter/Welder.

**Task:** Operating extending boom platform to weld beam.

**Type of Incident:** Machinery/Pinned between.

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On February 21, 2008, the operator of a hydraulic extending boom platform was crushed between the lift's basket and a beam. The 39-year-old carpenter and welder was employed by a company that supplies and erects panelized roof, steel and wood roof and floor structures. He was helping to build a warehouse. The victim, who had considerable experience doing this kind of work, was welding vertical stanchions to a horizontal beam above a doorway from the basket of a hydraulic extending boom lift. He had partially completed the welding and started to reposition the basket when he either extended or elevated the basket, causing him to be pinned between the basket's frame and the overhead beam.

Photo of incident scene.



### Requirements/Recommendations (! Indicates items required by code)

- Conduct a job hazard analysis before starting a job involving an aerial lift.
- Employers should provide training on aerial lift safety that would include the hazards of overhead obstructions and steps to take to prevent injury from becoming entangled in these obstructions.
- Require the presence of a ground person to assist the lift operator if hazardous conditions are encountered.
- Tether the key that operates the aerial lift from the ground controls to the ground control panel.
- Manufacturers and distributors are encouraged to follow the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Standard for articulated boom-supported aerial work platforms regarding providing pressure sensor/relief valves on their equipment.

**State Wide Statistics:** This was the 7<sup>th</sup> out of 72 work-related fatalities in Washington State during 2008, and was the 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 18 construction-related fatalities.

*\*This bulletin was developed at the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries to alert employers and employees of a tragic loss of life of a worker in Washington State. The information in this notice is based on preliminary data ONLY and does not represent final determinations regarding the nature of the incident or conclusions regarding the cause of the fatality.*

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