

Southern California Trade Contractors Association, Inc.

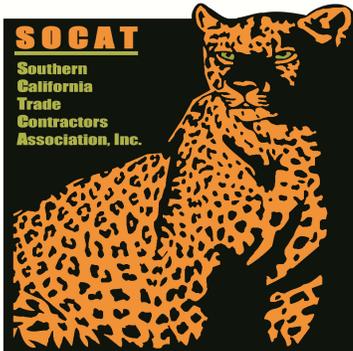
SAFETY NEWSLETTER

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2nd Quarter 2010

Scissor Lifts

SUPRVISORY TRAINING



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Scissors lifts and Articulating Booms

Scissors lifts and Articulating Booms

From 1992-99, there were an average of 26 deaths per year from lifts in construction.

- 18 fatalities per year from boom-supported lifts
- 8 per year from scissor and other vertical lifts
- This is 3% of all deaths in construction

For scissors lifts, OSHA regulations do not require that workers wear fall restraint/protection (assuming they have guardrails that are 42" high, ± 3 "). HOWEVER, some manufacturer's equipment manuals for scissors lifts now state that workers should wear fall restraint. If so, OSHA can cite the employer if the worker is not complying with the manufacturers' recommendations.

For booms lifts, workers **are** required to wear fall restraint. Do not allow workers to tie off to adjacent buildings or structures while working from an aerial lift. They should use a body harness or positioning device with a lanyard attached to the boom or basket to prevent the worker from being ejected or pulled from the basket.

Never attach (tie off) to top rail, only mid rail or below (this is fall restraint, not fall protection). Only stand on the floor of the basket; do

not lean over sides, get out of basket or step up onto railing.

Here is a recent accident report and photo that contrasts the benefits of wearing fall restraint gear while in a boom. Note, one worker was killed, and the other only had minor injuries:

“The accident resulted in the death of John Martz, 53, of Oneida, after he fell more than 50 feet Monday from a basket on a mechanical lift that was apparently struck by a piece of the building, flipping the basket over. Another employee in the basket, Anthony Webb, Tower City, was saved by the harness he was wearing. According to borough police, Webb was taken by ambulance to Schuylkill Medical Center-South Jackson Street, where he was treated for minor injuries and released. Lipsett said Martz was wearing a harness at the time of the accident, **but the harness wasn't connected to the lift**”.



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