

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth District
Safety & Occupational Health Office**

Lessons Learned

ACCIDENT: Fell off scissor lift.

Date: 30 Aug 2001

WHAT HAPPENED: Employee was working on a scissor lift with a built in sliding work platform. When the extension was pulled out it failed to lock in place and slid out from under him. He fell 15 ft on to a pile of blocks landing on his stomach.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS:

- Platform extension was not locked in place.
- Fall protection was not used.

RESULTS: Bruises and contusions to his abdomen.

LESSONS LEARNED:

Reference- EM 385-1-1 USACE Safety and Health Requirements Manuel

- **Train all employees on proper use of equipment before operating**

22.J.04 Only personnel trained in the use of the elevating work platform shall be authorized to operate it. Training shall consist of:

- a. reading and understanding the manufacturer's operating manual and any associated rules and instructions, or training by a qualified person on the contents on these documents, and
- b. reading and understanding all decals, warnings, and instructions on the elevating work platform.

- **Inspect equipment prior to use**

22.J.05 Before operating the work platform the operator shall:

- c. ensure the work platform is loaded in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications;
- d. ensure that outriggers and/or stabilizers are used if required by the manufacturer;

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- e. ensure that, if the vehicle is on wheels, the wheels are locked or chocked; and
- **Always use fall protection when guardrail is not available and/or is required by manufacture**

21.A.15 Fall protection

a. Employees shall be protected by standard guardrail, catch platforms, temporary floors, safety nets, personal fall protection devices, or the equivalent, in the following situations:

- (1) on access ways (excluding ladders) or work platforms from which they may fall 1.8 m (6 ft) or more,
- (3) on runways from which they may fall 1.2 m (4 ft) or more.

22.J.07 The use of personnel fall protection devices shall be as specified in the manufacturer's operating manual: personal fall protection devices, if used, may only be secured to manufacturer-approved hard points.