

Worker Ejected from Tipping Scissor Lift

Incident Date: April 10, 2018 / Location: Calgary, AB / Industry: Steel Manufacturing



AI Teaching Illustration. Conceptual tip-over exposure in a fabrication shop. Exact position and initiating cause are unknown; no crane contact is depicted.

What Happened

A maintenance electrician was changing light bulbs near a steel-joint production line. The worker had current elevating-platform training and experience with the task. After speaking with production workers and waiting for a crane to be moved, the worker positioned the scissor lift beside the line.

The lift's top rail was raised to about 6.24 metres and its deck extension was out about 0.87 metres. Nearby workers heard a bang and saw the lift on its side. One saw it falling but did not see what caused it. The electrician was ejected, received emergency care and died in hospital early the next morning.

Why This Became Fatal

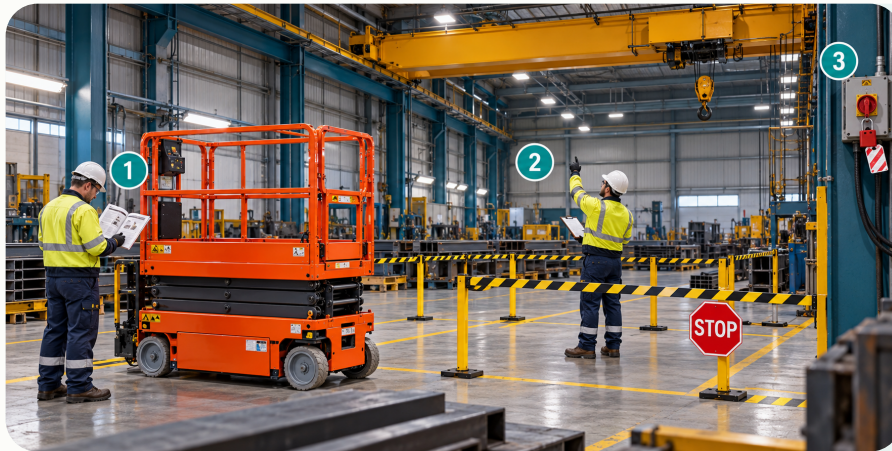
The elevated lift tipped, ejecting its occupant. The published investigation does not identify the cause of the tip-over. It does not establish a crane strike, ground failure or equipment defect. Use this case to review stability and interacting work without treating an unproven cause as fact.

NEVER FORGET.

LET THEIR STORY PREVENT RECURRENCE.

What Safe Looks Like

Verify the lift, operating area and surrounding work before elevating.



1 Check the Lift

Inspect and function-test; follow model-specific limits.

2 Assess the Whole Area

Verify ground support, clearances and overhead hazards.

3 Coordinate Nearby Work

Control nearby movement. Confirm emergency lowering and rescue before elevating.

AI Teaching Illustration. Pre-use hold point; crane controls are preventive, not a finding of cause. **LSR links:** Working at Height; Line of Fire.

Investigation Outcome

An enforcement review on **June 6, 2019** determined that **prosecution or an administrative penalty were not appropriate** in the circumstances. The investigation closed on June 12, 2019. The report records no employer or supervisor conviction and does not resolve what initiated the tip-over.

Talk It Through with Your Crew

- 1 What could affect lift stability or contact our platform at this work location?
- 2 Have we checked the manual's limits for this lift, extension and task?
- 3 How are cranes, vehicles and nearby production controlled while we work at height?
- 4 Would you stop or refuse elevation if stability or surrounding movements were uncertain?

SAFETY COMES FIRST.

Your Right to Refuse – Alberta. You may refuse work you reasonably believe presents an undue hazard: a serious and immediate threat. Promptly report the refusal and reasons to your employer or supervisor. They must investigate. Contact Alberta OHS if unresolved. Take reasonable care not to endanger others. You are protected from reprisal.

Sources: [Alberta OHS investigation Report No-F-OHS-142179-AD348](#), pp. 2-5; summary completed June 12, 2019. [Alberta refusal guidance](#). Prepared October 19, 2026. LSR links are learning associations, not findings of a breach.

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