

Worker Fell from Forklift Platform

Incident Date: July 8, 2020 / Location: Calgary, AB / Industry: Manufacturing



AI Teaching Illustration. Inset highlights forks outside the intended pockets. Height, PPE and equipment details are schematic; shown before the fall.

What Happened

An electrician was helping relocate a coating manufacturer and needed to disconnect a dust collector. The forklift's forks did not fit the personnel platform's pockets. The workers placed the forks together beneath the platform, between the pockets, and attached its retainer chain.

As the operator raised the platform, the electrician moved left to signal its position. The platform tipped and the chain broke, throwing the worker onto concrete. Coworkers called 911. The electrician was taken to hospital and died three days later.

Why This Became Fatal

The forklift and platform did not fit together as designed. The forks supported the platform between its pockets, leaving it vulnerable to tipping as the worker moved. The retainer chain broke during the tip. Guardrails could not keep the worker safe when the entire platform became unstable.

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What Safe Looks Like

Use a suitable personnel lift; never improvise an incompatible attachment.



1 Select Suitable Access

Choose equipment approved and suitable for lifting people.

2 Verify Before Lifting

Check compatibility, securement and pre-use condition.

3 Plan the Whole Task

Confirm fall protection, rescue, communication and electrical isolation.

AI Teaching Illustration. Pre-use check with a suitable alternative lift; follow its instructions and site requirements. **LSR links:** Working at Height; Energy Isolation.

Investigation Outcome

OHS referred the file to Alberta Justice after its enforcement review. On **January 13, 2022, Alberta Justice advised that charges were not recommended.** The investigation was completed May 9, 2022. The public report records no conviction or penalty and does not explain the reasons for the charging decision.

Talk It Through with Your Crew

- 1 Where do we lift people to reach equipment, services or building components?
- 2 How do we verify that a platform and its supporting equipment are compatible?
- 3 What happens here when the available attachment does not fit as designed?
- 4 Would you stop or refuse a lift if stability, securement or approval 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-213956](#), pp. 2-8; summary completed May 9, 2022. [CCOHS personnel platforms](#). [Alberta refusal guidance](#).

Prepared October 19, 2026. LSR links are learning associations, not findings of a breach.

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