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;
• 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.