



**DEPARTMENT OF MINES
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORT NO. 33

PASSENGER LIFT – A SERIOUS ACCIDENT

INCIDENT

Serious injuries were sustained by an electrician engaged in the repair of an industrial passenger lift. While the person was alighting from the top of the lift car, the car moved upwards, causing him to fall and become trapped between the car and liftwell structure. The injured person avoided further injuries by grasping and operating a car-top safety device as he fell. Access to the lift car top had been gained by the removal of sheetmetal cladding from the liftwell.

CAUSE

The accident was caused by adopting an unsafe method of accessing the lift car top, which resulted in there being no safeguard to prevent the lift from operating automatically. Car top controls had been returned to 'normal' operation prior to stepping off, allowing the lift to respond to a registered call.

COMMENTS AND PREVENTATIVE ACTION

Normal practice for accessing the top of a lift car is via landing doors opened with a mechanic's maintenance door unlocking device. In this manner, 'door-open' interlocks afford the same protection that is provided to passengers during normal usage. Prior to any closure or re-opening of such landing doors from within the liftwell, operation of the car-top selector-switch and emergency-stop is essential to prevent possible movement of the lift car.

Lift owners need to ensure that maintenance personnel are adequately trained and sufficiently experienced to competently carry out this type of work in a safe manner.

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SAFETY AWARENESS SAVES LIVES