



**DEPARTMENT OF MINES
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORT NO. 30

ELEVATING PLATFORM OPERATION – SERIOUS INJURY

INCIDENT

An elevating platform (“cherry-picker” basket) was being manoeuvred by an operator using ground-mounted controls. The platform (basket) contained two men who were wearing safety harnesses which were attached to the platform by safety lines. When the platform (basket) reached a height of approximately 33 metres the basket level control failed causing the basket to turn upside down. The men in the basket were tipped out, and, although they suffered injuries, their safety harnesses and attached lines probably saved their lives.

CAUSE

The electro-hydraulic control system of the basket levelling circuit failed. The design of the basket pivot which was located at the base of the basket (rather than the more conventional top of the basket) allowed the basket to turn upside down tipping the men out.

COMMENTS AND PREVENTATIVE ACTION

All elevating platforms used for the conveyance of personnel must be designed to fail to safety. In cases where the failure of a level control can lead to overturning of the platform or basket the fail-safe requirement is particularly vital.

Owners and operators of all elevating platforms are urged to check their units with respect to the fail-safe features of the control circuits.

Personnel required to work from elevating platforms must wear safety belts or harnesses with safety lines secured to an anchorage which will prevent them falling. This requirement is reflected in Regulation 4.4 (1) of the Mines Regulation Act 1946.

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SAFETY AWARENESS SAVES LIVES