



**DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS AND ENERGY
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORT NO. 39

UNCONTROLLED MOVEMENT OF “CHERRY PICKER”

INCIDENT

A serious accident occurred when a self propelled elevating work platform was being off loaded under its own power from a “tiltatruck” truck. The operator was riding in the basket and using the controls attached to the basket to drive the carrier unit from the tilted truck tray. The basket caught on the road and folded under the boom, collapsing and trapping the operator in the basket. He was severely injured, sustaining a fractured pelvis.

CAUSE

A substandard practice was adopted, in which the immediate cause was that the basket was not raised high enough to miss the ground as the machine drove off.

COMMENTS AND PREVENTION ACTION

It is recommended that

1. Elevating work platforms be unloaded from “tiltatruck” trucks using the truck winch in the following manner.
 - (a) Raise Boom to a height that will allow the basket to clear the floor when rolling down the tray.
 - (b) Disengage the elevating platform travel drive (to the free wheel mode), after it is secured to the winch.
 - (c) Tilt the truck tray and control the roll off speed of the elevating platform by using the truck winch, taking care that it does not slew.
2. No operator rides in the basket of the elevating platform during this operation.
3. All personnel should remain clear until the unit is on level ground. Only qualified and trained personnel carry out this operation.

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