

**Workplace Fatality Summary Report:**

**Worker Fatally Injured While Installing Fascia**

## The Contents of this Report

This report summarizes the Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety's Occupational Health and Safety Branch investigation of a fatal incident. The information contained is intended for educational purposes only.

## Incident Summary

A worker was fatally injured when the work platform they were standing on to install fascia slid off the forks of a telehandler.

## Background Information

The fatally injured worker (worker 1) was a carpenter and had no formal training records for the power mobile equipment (PME) used. Worker 2 did not have any formal training for the specific PME involved in the incident.

## Equipment and Materials

**Telehandler, Platform and Scissor lift:**

### Worksite:

Figure 1 provides an overall view of the scene and shows the work platform and the telehandler.



Figure 1

### **Platform:**

Figure 2 shows the platform that worker 1 was standing on during the time of the incident. A safety chain is welded onto the platform.



*Figure 2*

### **Telehandler:**

Figure 3 shows the configuration of the telehandler forks.



*Figure 3*

## Scissor Lift:

Figure 4 shows the scissor lift that was on site.



Figure 4

## Sequence of Events

On the day of the incident, two workers were installing upper metal fascia to the top of the northwest corner of a cattle barn. On-site, there was a telehandler with forks and a scissor lift. The workers planned to use the scissor lift to elevate worker 1 to the top of the northeast side of the building. It was determined that the scissor lift could not be used because it would have been too far from the building when lifted to the required height and there would have been interference from obstructions. Worker 1 instructed worker 2 to retrieve the telehandler instead.

The forks of the telehandler were attached to the sleeves of the platform, but the safety chain was not attached to the carriage assembly of the telehandler. While worker 1 was situated on the platform, worker 2 began raising the platform to the top of the building so that worker 1 could complete the fascia installation. The forks of the telehandler tilted downwards, and the platform slid off the forks causing worker 1 to fall to approximately 25 feet to the ground. The platform subsequently fell on top of worker 1.

## Completion

The employer pleaded guilty to contravening clause 11-2(2) of *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 2020* (being an employer failed to ensure that only trained operators are required or permitted to operate powered mobile equipment, resulting in the death of a worker); and clause 12-27(2)(b) (being an employer failed to ensure that a work platform mounted on a forklift on which a worker may be raised or lowered or required or permitted to work is securely attached to the forks of the forklift to prevent accidental lateral or vertical movement of the platform, resulting in the death of a worker). The employer was fined \$40,000 on each count and a victim surcharge of \$16,000 on each count.