

# SAFETY NOTES

Department of Consumer & Business Services  
Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division  
Salem, OR 97310

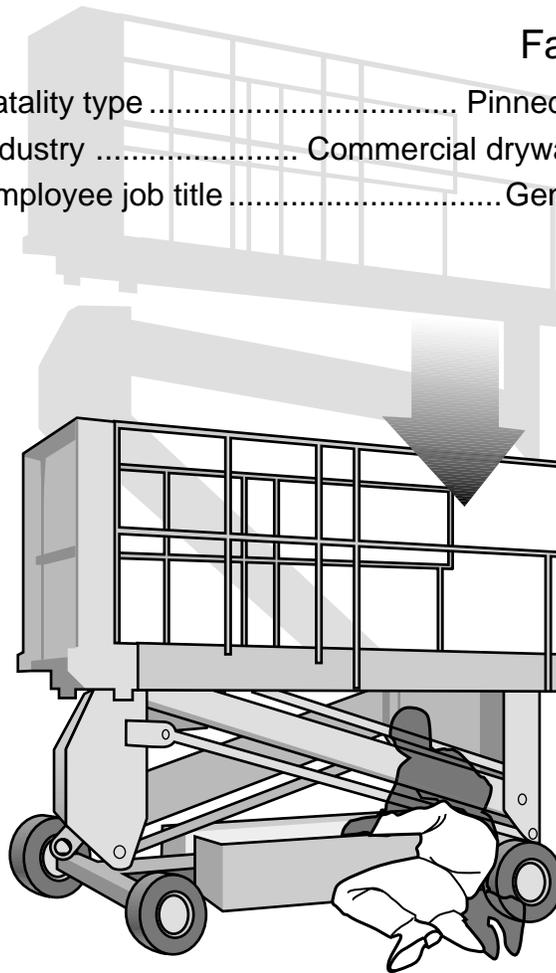
## Fatality Report

Fatality type ..... Pinned by equipment  
Industry ..... Commercial drywall construction  
Employee job title ..... General employee

### **Description of accident**

The son of the owner of a commercial drywall construction company, an employee of the company, was readying an aerial lift (Strato-Lift) for a job. The man had replaced two battery terminals. He had placed the aerial boom in the lifted position and was reaching toward the battery compartment across the metal enclosure that houses the lift's toggle controls when the boom descended and pinned him to the control-panel area of the machine.

The victim was discovered by his father. Emergency medical services were summoned, but they found the victim dead.



### **Investigation findings**

The lift's emergency valve, hydraulic hoses and fittings, and electrical wiring system were inspected after the accident and found to have no defects, but the on/off key switch had been bypassed to allow the operator to use the toggle switches without using the key. The battery charging system was missing a fuse which would prevent the system from accepting a charge and the spring-loaded toggle switches that controlled boom operation did not have guards to prevent accidental contact.

Lockout/tagout procedures were not utilized, and the lift boom had not been blocked, supported, or cribbed to prevent unintentional descent during maintenance.

The owner had left employee instruction about aerial-lift operation to the dealer who had sold the aerial lift to the drywall company. The owner had not reviewed the operator's manual with the victim or other employees. Although the company employed more than 10 for large jobs, there was no safety committee.

### **Applicable standards**

The company was issued an Order to Correct for the following violations:

- OAR 437-001-0760(1)(b)(D) — The employer did not use all reasonable means to ensure that employees did not remove, displace, damage, destroy, or carry off any safety device, guard, notice, or warning provided for use in any employment or place of employment while such use was required by applicable safety and health rules.
- 29 CFR 1910.147(c)(4)(i) — Procedures were not developed, documented, and utilized for the control of potentially hazardous energy (lockout/tagout procedures)
- OAR 437-01-0765(2)(a) — A safety committee had not been established by the employer.