

## 24. Crushed by Elevator

A 38-year-old elevator service-and-repair-man was killed when he was pinned between the top of an elevator and the top of the elevator shaft. The victim and a technician were sent to a private residence to determine and repair the source of a *bump* or *noise* that the homeowner reported was occurring while the elevator was in operation. The victim was riding on top of the elevator car troubleshooting and the technician was inside the car operating the controls. The victim directed the technician to raise or lower the car in the shaft to facilitate locating the bump or noise. There was an emergency STOP button on top of the car-top electrical box and, in addition to other controls, an emergency STOP button in the car. At some point, as the car was travelling from floor 2 toward floor 3 with the victim riding on the top, he became pinned between the car and the top of the shaft. The car was trying to go to floor 3 and would not stop because it was not high enough to actuate a magnetic reader or the top final limit switch that would tell the electronic controller that the car had arrived at floor 3. Once he discovered that the victim was pinned, the technician attempted to collapse the wall of the elevator car by kicking it to allow the roof to collapse. The technician and the home owner worked to saw through the car's overhead to allow the roof to fall in. The technician then attempted to open all the hydraulic system valves and bleed off the hydraulic pressure to allow the car to lower. He also tried to cut the hydraulic supply line to bleed off the pressure. Only this last effort was successful and as the car lowered, the technician and the home owner pulled the victim free onto the floor 3 landing. It is unclear why neither the technician nor the victim actuated their respective emergency STOP switches. Emergency services were called to the scene, but the victim did not survive.

### No Citation(s) Issued

