

#14: Fall – Inspection #317797496

A **59 year old male** sole owner and employee (son) were working from a personnel platform, elevated approximately 16 to 18 feet by a Skytrak lift, when the forks failed and the platform, with the owner and employee in it, fell off the forks to the concrete floor below. The company was contracted to install a ceiling in a building on the client’s business site. The Skytrak was being operated by the part-time employee (grandson) of the contractor, who had only recently been trained on operation of the lift. The platform being used belonged to the client and the Skytrak lift belonged to the contractor. The platform measured 4 feet wide and 7 feet long and was not secured to the lift during this incident. During the TOSHA inspection it was observed that the threaded hydraulic line fitting on the right side fork tilt cylinder was broken. Hydraulic fluid was reported to be present on the lift and ground following the accident. The CSHO observed a warning label to the left of the steering wheel that read “this machine is designed to handle material only; lifting or lowering personnel could result in injury or be hazardous to life”. The CSHO inquired of the dealer, if the threaded hydraulic fitting would fail solely due to pressure or would it have to strike something to break off. The dealer stated that the fitting could have been struck at some other point and then the pressure of lifting the load could have caused the fitting to fail. An employee of the client moved the Skytrak away from the building after the accident and stated that the parking brake was engaged when he got on the lift and the service brakes were working. The construction company is no longer in existence due to the death of the sole owner and citations with penalties were not issued.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

Citation 1

Item 1 1926.451(c)(2)(iv)	In that the Skytrak, Model# 6034-4, at the jobsite was used to elevate the employee in a personnel platform when the lift was not designed by the manufacturer to be used as a manlift, exposing the employee to a fall of approximately 16-18 foot. .
Item 1 1910.451(c)(2)(v)	Forklifts shall not be used to support scaffold platforms unless the entire platform is attached to the fork in that the personnel platform, for which the employee was working, was not secured to the Skytrak lift when used at the jobsite to elevate the employee, exposing the employee to a fall of approximately 16-18 foot.

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Photo 1 of 3: Ceiling to be erected by the contractor.

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Photo 2 of 3: Personnel platform used during incident.



Photo 3 of 3: Broken threaded hydraulic fitting on the right side fork tilt cylinder.