

**TITLE: Blue Alert-Vendor Employee Violates Fall Protection Requirements**

DATE: August 31, 2004

**LESSON LEARNED STATEMENT:** Rigorous attention to work control processes is necessary at all times, particularly when vendors are brought on site to perform short-term repairs or preventive maintenance. Care must be taken to ensure that vendor employees are aware of and follow all hazard controls. Supervision is responsible for identifying hazards and providing for the safety of all sub-tier contractor personnel.

**DISCUSSION OF ACTIVITIES:** A Department of Energy (DOE) Facility Representative observed a vendor operating a portable man lift in the X-3002 Facility without fall protection (i.e., safety harness anchored to operator cage). The vendor was approximately 20 feet in the air at the time of the observation. The vendor was evaluating an operating problem that had been identified previously with the portable man lift and the vendor was called onsite by the subcontractor to troubleshoot and repair the equipment.

**ANALYSIS:** The supervisor in charge of the man lift repairs had no direct contact with the vendor employee performing the work and sent two electricians to escort the employee to the equipment to perform the repairs. The requirements of Proc-68, Elevated Working Surfaces and Fall Protection, were not communicated with the vendor in a pre-job briefing resulting in the violation of fall protection requirements. A check with the vendor verified that the employee had been trained to the vendor policy that requires fall protection when the man lift is operated. The two electricians that escorted the vendor employee asked him if fall protection was required to perform the repairs, the employee responded only if the lift was in motion or mobile. This is in violation of the fall protection procedure and the vendor's own policy. Established work control processes were not followed, including not issuing a Work Order to trouble shoot and repair the man lift, not entering a schedule change/break to perform the work, and not conducting a pre-job briefing with the vendor that performed the repairs.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:** Review the potential for similar applications at other sites. Follow established work control procedures to ensure all personnel, including vendor employees, are aware of and follow hazard controls.

**PRIORITY DESCRIPTOR:** Blue/Information

**FUNCTIONAL CATEGORY (S) (DOE):** Conduct of Operations; Occupational Safety & Health

**BJC TREND CODE (S) (USER-DEFINED):** OP - Conduct of Operations; SH - Occupational Safety & Health

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KEYWORDS: Fall Protection, Pre-job Briefing, Vendor Employee

REFERENCES: N/A

HAZARDS: Elevated Work

WORK ACTIVITY: Heavy Equipment

ISMS CODE: Perform Work Within Controls