

16. Equipment Tipover

A 28-year-old employee of a telephone and cable repair company was killed when the bucket truck he was working from tipped over. The victim was working to restore a telephone line to a residential customer. He parked the truck along a narrow, gravel road perpendicular to the utility pole he needed to access. He climbed into the bucket (an articulating, telescopic aerial lift attached to the truck chassis) and operated the controls to move over toward the pole. The residential customer observed the victim in the bucket as it appeared to be returning to the truck. She saw the bucket “jerk” just as the truck on the side of the road began sliding down an embankment it was parked adjacent to. As the truck slid, it forced the bucket against the side of a hill with the victim still inside. The customer quickly called for help which arrived within minutes but due to the weight of the truck being applied to the victim, it took rescuers several minutes to free him. He lost consciousness and was transported to an area hospital. Four days later he passed away from his injuries.

TOSHA Citation(s) as Originally Issued

Citation 1

Item 1 T.C.A. 50-3-105(1)	The employer did not furnish employment and a place of employment which were free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees in that an was exposed to a vehicle tip-over hazard by being parked adjacent to a sloped embankment which could not provide adequate support for the vehicle.
Item 2 1910.67(c)(2)(ii)	Untrained person(s) operated an aerial lift.

Where the victim was pinned

