

14 Electrocution – Inspection #1163495

A **50 year old male** employee was fatally injured when he was electrocuted while trimming trees from an aerial lift. On the day of the accident, the victim and another employee were in the basket of the Nifty TM40 aerial lift trimming the tops of holly trees near a communication line located 12 feet from the ground. An energized powerline was also in the area, located 18 feet from the ground. Due to the articulation of the lift boom, the basket was raised vertically in order to extend its horizontal reach. While the operator was positioning the lift the victim's left hand came in contact with the 7,200 volt primary electrical line. The employer failed to assess the jobsite for potential hazards, maintain a safe working distance or provide other protective measure to ensure the safety of employees when conducting work near overhead electrical lines.

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

29 CFR 1910.67(c)(2)(ii)	Employee(s) operating an aerial lift were not properly trained. In that two employees were utilizing a Nifty brand aerial lift to access and trip the tops of holly trees and were not properly trained on the safe operation of the lift to include, approach distances to energized lines, the use of a body belt while in the basket, and keeping your feet firmly on the floor of the basket.
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Citation 1 Item 2

29 CFR 1910. 67(c)(2)(v)	A body belt was not worn and a lanyard attached to the boom or basket when working from an aerial lift. In that two employees were utilizing a Nifty brand aerial lift to access and trim the tops of holly trees and were not utilizing a body belt and lanyard.
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Citation 1 Item 3a

29 CFR 1910. 132(d)(1)	The employer did not assess the workplace to determine if hazards are present, or are likely to be present, which necessitate the use of personal protective equipment. In that the employer did not conduct a hazard assessment of the jobsite and failed to identify flying particles and sharp edges as hazards present or likely to be present on the jobsite.
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Citation 1 Item 3b

29 CFR 1910.132(f)(1)	The employer did not provide training to each employee who is required by this section to use personal protective equipment. In that the employer failed to train three employees on the use, limitations, and maintenance of personal protective equipment.
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Citation 1 Item 3c

29 CFR 1910.133(a)(1)	Protective eye equipment was not required where there was a reasonable probability of injury that could be prevented by such equipment. In that three employees were exposed to flying particles while using hand tools to trim a series of holly trees and were not required to utilize eye protection.
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Citation 1 Item 3d

29 CFR 1910.135(a)(1)	The employer did not ensure that each affected employee wear a protective helmet when working in areas where there is a potential for injury to the head from falling objects. In that three employees were exposed to falling tree limbs while trimming a series of holly trees and were not required to utilize head protection.
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Citation 1 Item 3e

29 CFR 1910.138(a)	The employer did not select and require employee(s) to use appropriate hand protection when employees' hand were exposed to hazards such as those from skin absorption of harmful substances, severe cuts or lacerations, severe abrasion, punctures, chemical burns, thermal burns and harmful temperature extremes. In that three employees were utilizing manual and gasoline powered hand tools to trim a series of holly trees. While cutting and removing the limbs employees were exposed to sharp edges and protrusions from the limbs and were not required to utilize hand protection.
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Citation 1 Item 4

29 CFR 1910.151(b)	There was neither an infirmary, clinic, or hospital used for the treatment of all injured employees in near proximity to the workplace nor a person or persons adequately trained to render first aid. In that the employer was not within close proximity to a healthcare facility and did not have any adequately trained personnel certified to render first aid.
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Citation 1 Item 5

29 CFR 1910.333(c)(3)	When work was to be performed near overhead lines, the lines were not de-energized and grounded, nor were other protective measures provided before work was started. In that two employees were operating a Nifty brand aerial lift to better access and trim holly trees located 6 feet below a 7,200 volt primary electrical line. While positioning the bucket of the lift employees were at the point of contact with the energized line with no protective equipment measures in place.
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Citation 1 Item 6a

29 CFR 1910.333(c)(3)(i)(A)(1)	When an unqualified person was working in an elevated position near overhead lines with voltages to ground rated at 50 kV or below, the location was not such that the person and the longest conductive object he or she could contact came closer than 10 foot to any unguarded, energized overhead line. In that two employees were working from the basket of a Nifty brand aerial lift trimming the tops of holly trees. The employees were utilizing a Husqvarna brand gasoline-powered trimmer and reaching out from the basket of the lift directly below the overhead lines.
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Citation 1 Item 6b

29 CFR 1910.333(c)(3)(iii)(A)	Vehicles or mechanical equipment capable of having parts of their structures elevated near energized overhead lines were not operated so that a clearance of 10 feet was maintained. In that two employees were utilizing a Nifty brand aerial lift to access and trim tops of holly trees located below a primary electrical line. While attempting to access another area of the holly trees the operator positioned the lift 3 feet below the energized line.
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Citation 2 Item 1a

29 CFR 1910.1200(e)(1)	The employer did not develop, implement, and or maintain at the workplace a written hazard communication program which describes how the criteria specified in 29 CFR 1910.1200(f), (g), and (h) will be met. In that the employer failed to provide a written hazard communication program for employee(s) exposed to gasoline while completing their daily job duties.
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Citation 2 Item 1b

29 CFR 1910.1200(h)(1)	Employees were not provided effective information and training on hazardous chemicals in their work area at the time of their initial assignment and whenever a new hazard that the employees had not been previously trained about was introduced into their work area. In that the employer failed to provide effective information and training on hazardous chemicals at the time of initial assignment for employee(s) exposed to gasoline while completing their daily job duties.
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Piney Flats

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Citation 2 Item 1c

29 CFR 1910.1200(g)(1)	The employer did not have a safety data sheet for each hazardous chemical in use. In that the employer failed to provide safety data sheets for hazardous chemicals that employees may come into contact with as part of their daily job duties.
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Photo 1 of 1 –Nifty aerial lift positioned next to the holly trees. The blue arrow points to the communication line at 12 feet from the ground. The primary electrical line located at 18 feet from the ground was burnt and broken where the victim made contact therefore it is not pictured in this photo.