

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Elevated Work Platform (EWP)

During a scheduled maintenance day, a cleanup worker and an Aerial Work Platform (AWP) operator were tasked with removing dust and debris from elevated areas.

While operating the platform, the basket was positioned very close to a rafter. The AWP Operator inadvertently moved the basket toward the rafter instead of away, pinching the cleanup worker's left hand between the outside railing of the basket and the rafter.

The employee sustained a minor injury. However, the combination of equipment power, hand placement and structural proximity created a situation with the potential for serious harm.

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Reinforce hazard awareness among operators and passengers, emphasizing the importance of using inside handrails to prevent pinch/crush injuries.
- Provide training and establish clear communication protocols between operators and passengers prior to equipment movement, ensuring all occupants are prepared before the equipment is activated.
- Increase hazard assessment training to improve employee risk awareness and promote safer operational practices.



MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Operators and passengers must be aware of hand and body positioning to avoid potential pinch points.

Operators should provide clear communication before equipment movement.

