

SAFETY ALERT

Category: Injury – Safely loading boom lifts onto tilt trays

Risk Matrix: HIGH

Location: Sydney

Incident Date: 23/01/2023

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Details:

A transport operator was engaged to transport a JLG M600JP Bi-Energy Boom Lift from a customer site back to the branch.

The Operator arrived at site and grounded his tray in preparation to load the boom lift. After retrieving the boom lift the operator slewed the basket to the right of the machine to provide a better view of the truck tray.

Once this was completed the operator commenced loading the boom lift by driving the boom up the grounded tilt tray. Once the boom lift wheels were resting on the headboard the operator slewed the basket into the stowed position for transport. The operator then lowered the basket onto the tray of the truck, then raised the basket once more before lowering it again. At this stage it appears the basket connected with the tray with enough force to lift one of the braked axles off the tray. The axle that remained in contact with the tray were drive axles only and could not be held in position. The Operator had not attached the winch to the machine and as a result the machine started to roll uncontrolled down the tray.

As the machine rolled down the tray it gained momentum and once the basket connected with the hardstand area of the loading dock the basket was turned upside down under the jib. The machine continued to travel in this fashion until coming to a halt adjacent to a curb, guttering and handrail in the loading dock area.

The Operator was assisted by several nearby workers until emergency services arrived. After being treated at the scene he was transferred to hospital for further treatment and observation.

Actions to be taken:

- When loading boom lifts onto tilt tray trucks always ensure the winch cable is connected to the machine and the boom lift is winch and driven onto the tray.
- When stowing the boom basket for transport always conduct the activity from the ground controls after the machine has been restrained.
- Ensure appropriate PPE including a full body harness are worn by transport operators.
- Ensure transport operators are trained and competent to undertake activities.
- Ensure trucks, winches and machines are maintained on a regular basis as per manufacturers guidelines.



Image 1: Depicts the point of contact between the tray and the basket with brake wheels slightly raised off the truck tray.



Image 2: Depicts the machine commencing its uncontrolled movement down the raised tilt tray truck platform.



Image 3: Depicts the uncontrolled movement of the machine with the basket connecting with the hardstand area of the loading dock area. At this point the basket starts to fold under the jib of the machine.



Image 4: Depicts the machine during its uncontrolled movement with the basket being dragged by the jib of the machine along the loading dock hardstand area.



Image 6: Depicts the machine coming to a halt adjacent to a stairway, curb and gutter and handrail.



Images 7, 8 and 9 depict the machine as it came to rest at it's final location.