Boom Machine Carries Two To Their Deaths



Two workers rode a self-propelled lift machine to their deaths as it crashed to the ground. One was washing windows and the other was obtaining measurements for building changes.

One of the victims was operating the controls of the machine in which they were working. The machine had a boom, which was extended into an unstable position because of the crowded area where the work was being done. One wheel of the unit went off the sidewalk, causing the machine to tip over.

Design changes in the lift machine were recommended after this incident. The need for regular maintenance and testing of lift equipment is also illustrated by this incident, as well as the need for operator training. Units like this need a hard, flat surface upon which to operate. These machines are becoming increasingly common, used for their mobility and ready access to areas off the ground. Never try to move a lift while it is occupied or the boom is extended.