

Safety Alert

Issue: Incident

Date: 2018-07-11

Location: MacNeil House

Department: Buildings

Incident Details:

On Friday, July 6th, two carpentry workers were elevated in a Genie “Zoom Boom” work platform, when they felt the basket drop approximately one foot. They immediately informed their supervisor, a safe rescue was performed, and the workers were returned to the ground unharmed. Upon inspection of the base of the unit, it was noted that one wheel was approximately six inches off the ground, and the machine was on uneven ground.



Cause:

The investigation of the incident is ongoing, and a definitive cause is yet to be determined. The zoom boom is being tested to try to determine if the equipment malfunctioned, causing the drop. In the meantime, there will be some safe work practice updates for zoom boom operators, which are noted below in the list of preliminary Corrective Actions.

Corrective Actions:

- A workplace inspection shall be performed by all operators in conjunction with the pre-operation inspection, prior to using the zoom boom.
- Do not raise or extend the boom unless the machine is on a firm, level surface. Do not depend on the tilt alarm as a level indicator. The tilt alarm sounds in the platform only when the machine is on a severe slope.
- If the tilt alarm sounds: Do not extend, rotate or raise the boom above horizontal. Move the machine to a firm, level surface before raising the platform. If the tilt alarm sounds when the platform is raised, use extreme caution to retract the boom and lower the platform. Do not rotate the boom while lowering. Move the machine to a firm, level surface before raising the platform.