

# FATAL



WORKERS'  
COMPENSATION  
BOARD  
OF BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

POSTER # 97-08

Industry: Service Age: 42 Experience: Several Years Area: Lower Mainland

## Do not override safety devices

A window washer was killed when the elevated scissor lift he was operating flopped sideways, throwing him to the pavement below. He died shortly afterward from massive head and back injuries.

At the time of the accident, the window washer was repositioning the self-propelled scissor lift. The lift was equipped with an operational tilt sensor that automatically lowers the operator's lift platform when the tilt exceeds three degrees to any side. He was operating the lift on an eight-degree slope, exceeding the slope capacity by five degrees. However, the wires leading to the tilt sensor had been intentionally disconnected, leaving the window washer without any tilt protection.

A random follow-up check by the WCB of several other self-propelled scissor lifts used around the Lower Mainland revealed that a number of them also had the tilt sensor wires disconnected.

### Safe work practices:

- Ensure your elevating work platform(s) is equipped with fully functioning tilt sensors.
- Direct and instruct workers in the safe performance of their duties.
- Never override hydraulic, mechanical, or electrical safety devices.
- Maintain and operate elevating work platforms in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Before operating scissor lifts, check tilt sensors manually to ensure they are functioning.
- Use outriggers, if provided.

