

11. Equipment failure

A **67-year-old** local government employee died while working from an aerial-boom bucket when the boom broke off from the truck. The victim was working from the aerial lift trimming trees along a rural two-lane road using a hydraulic chain saw to cut the tree limbs. He had the boom positioned approximately 15 to 20 degrees from the center line of the truck and approximately 30 to 35 feet in the air while trimming the trees. After working for about an hour on that morning, the victim moved the boom arm away from the tree line and began to withdraw the arm back toward the truck. The arm suddenly broke from the pedestal base on the truck and fell onto the truck and then to the ground, with the victim still in the bucket. Employees on the ground rushed to the victim and one co-worker began CPR when he found the victim was still alive. Emergency medical personnel responded and continued CPR, but the victim succumbed to his injuries on site. An examination of the truck and boom revealed that 20 of the rotation gear bolts where the boom attached to the truck were broken. These broken bolts allowed the boom to separate from the pedestal plate on the truck and fall to the ground.

Notice of Unsafe or Unhealthful Working Conditions

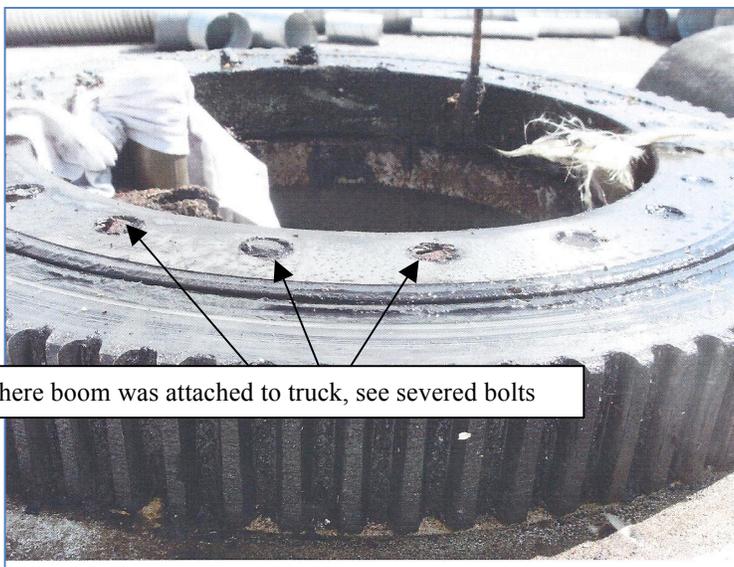
Citation 1

Item 1 50-3-105(1)	The employer did not furnish employment and a place of employment which were free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees in that the boom was not subjected to maintenance according to the manufacturer's recommendations, including periodic torqueing of the rotation bearing bolts every 180 days or every 1,000 hours of use and daily, frequent, and periodic inspection of the lift.
Item 2 1910.67(c)(2)(i)	The employer did not ensure that employees tested the lift controls each day prior to use.
Item 3 1910.67(c)(2)(ii)	The employer did not ensure that employees operating aerial lifts were properly trained.
Item 4 1910.151(b)	There was neither an infirmary, clinic, nor hospital in near proximity to the workplace for the treatment of all injured employees, nor a person or persons adequately trained to render first aid and first aid supplies were not readily available.

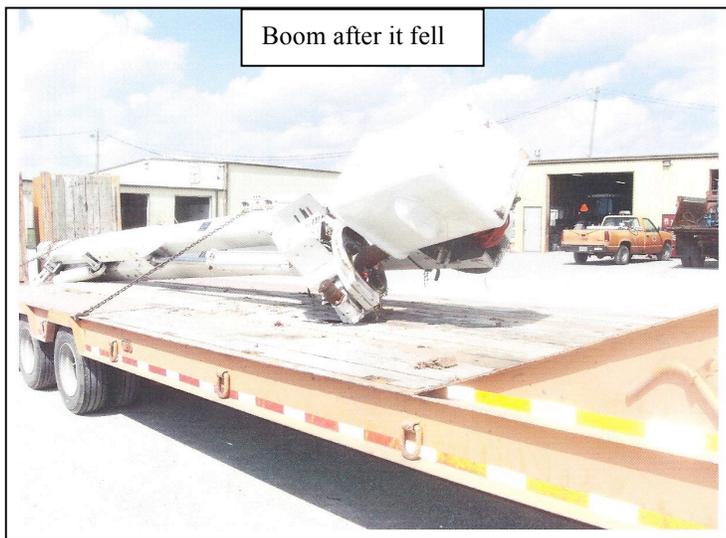
See Photos on Next Page



Truck to which boom was attached



Where boom was attached to truck, see severed bolts



Boom after it fell