# Getting High On Safety Fatality File

## Worker Dies After Falling from an Elevating Work Platform (Scissor Lift)

A carpenter died after falling approximately 12 feet on a cement floor at the construction site of a new building. The victim and a co-worker were using a self-propelled elevating work platform to install 12’ x 4’ sheets of drywall when the accident occurred. The platform of the scissor lift was 8 feet long with a 3-foot telescoping extension. Since the drywall sheets were 12 feet long, the end guardrail was removed to accommodate them. The victim inadvertently fell from the unguarded end of the platform.

**WorkSafeNB determined the causes of the accident were:**

- Fall arrest equipment was not used while working from an unguarded area.
- While marking and cutting sheets of drywall, the worker was placed in a dangerous unguarded area.
- Precautions were not taken to prevent a fall after removal of a guardrail.

**Recommended Preventive Action**

The appropriate scissor lift for the job must be used. In this case, a larger scissor lift would have accommodated the sheets of drywall without necessitating the removal of guardrails.

Safe operation of self-propelled elevating work platforms

- Make sure the work platform meets CSA standards.
- Read and understand the operator manual.
- Use all available protective and safety devices.
- Check tires for proper air pressure.

- Check ground and floor areas for holes and obstructions.
- Maintain safe clearance from overhead electrical lines.
- Never climb on guardrails to gain greater height.
- Never use ladders, planks, steps or other devices on the platform to gain greater height.