



IUEC INCIDENT SUMMARY

CLOSE CALLS, NEAR MISSES AND INJURIES

“CLOSE CALL”



Description of Incident

Control Type: Electric

Machine Type: Gearless

Speed: 1000 FPM

Capacity: 3500 lbs.

Rise: 41 stops

Hoistway Configuration: 12 Car Bank



- Two crews were performing a modernization on two high speed gearless elevators.
- One elevator is of corner-post construction and was scheduled to have a full cab replacement on Saturday. The crews left the car on the 3rd floor loaded with 4500 lbs. of weights to counter balance the car which was stripped down to the platform, styles and crosshead.
- At the end of the day on Friday, prior to the cab replacement, one of the mechanics decided to remove the 4500 lbs. of test weights off the car platform.
- As he rolled the last weight cart off the platform, the car started to creep upwards. Within seconds, it overhauled and went up 38 floors into the overhead. The car wound up on its safeties in the overhead, the compensating sheave was ripped out of its tie-downs and had flipped upside down. The counterweight landed, compressing the buffer, and the traveling cables were ripped out of their hitches under the car. Luckily, no one was hurt.



Recommendations and Lessons Learned



- Always follow the company safety policy
- Always perform a JHA/JSA as per company policy
- Always follow the company SOP
- Possible Root Causes:
 - Removing the weights from the platform was the root cause. Additionally, there were no secondary means of safety for this procedure such as rail grips or angles installed to the top of the car to prevent it from moving up. A rope gripper was also part of the modernization that had not yet been installed. If it was installed and operational, it could have prevented this incident from occurring

Field Employee Safety Handbook

Section 1

GENERAL SAFETY

1.1 Employee Responsibilities

- (af) on modernization, when removing old material from elevator platforms, make sure counter balance is properly adjusted before proceeding.