



IUEC INCIDENT SUMMARY

CLOSE CALLS, AND INJURIES

“INJURY”
CAUGHT BETWEEN

April 28th 2023---IUEC Safety Stand Down Day



Description of Incident

Control Type: Electric

Machine Type: Geared-Baseament Traction

Speed: 100 FPM

Capacity: 2000 lbs.

Rise: 4 stop

Hoistway Configuration: Simplex

- A temporary mechanic was performing maintenance on a job that was not on his route. When he completed his work in the machine room, located at the first floor, he tried to exit but the door closed and locked behind him, and he could not get out.
- The door lock mechanism is old so unless you turn the key three times counterclockwise and hit the button on the jamb edge, the knob does not turn to open the door from either side. The TM tried to alert someone by knocking on the door, but no one heard him.
- Next, he decided to remove the hoistway screening so he could climb down onto the machine and access the pit ladder to exit the pit thru the hoistway door. Unfortunately, he did not perform lock-out-tag-out.
- As he was looking into the hoistway while standing on the gearbox, he slipped and fell face first into the hoistway over the hoist machine drive sheave. His left foot became wedged between the hoist machine drive sheave and the hoist ropes with the car running in the up direction. The TM yelled for help and the Sheriff's office in the building heard him. The Sheriff opened the hoistway door and saw him hanging upside down. They held his body upright for 2 hours while waiting to be rescued.
- Emergency personnel called the elevator company and 2 mechanics were dispatched to help. The mechanics hoisted the car so the emergency personnel could free his foot.
- **Current Status:** The TM was released after three days in the hospital with a boot on his foot and will follow up with his doctor. The actions of the emergency crew and the company employees saved the TM's life.



Recommendations and Lessons Learned



- Always follow the company safety policy
- Always perform a JHA/JSA as per company policy
- **Possible Root Causes:**
 - Non code compliant machine room door lock
 - Lock out tag out not utilized
 - Employee not familiar with the job
- **Field Employees' Safety Handbook**
 - Section 7 Lockout and tagout General requirements
 - 7.1 Procedures
 - (a) understand the equipment; be aware of its potential hazards. If it is not understood, or you have a question, contact your Superintendent/Manager immediately before proceeding.
 - (b) Where the accidental starting of the equipment would create a hazard – deactivate mainline disconnect switch to shut off power. **CAUTION: Do not stand directly in front of the mainline disconnect when operating (stand off to the side of the disconnect). Each employee shall apply to the disconnect switch a personal lock and a “DO NOT START” tag with the employee’s name.**
 - Section 8.5 Machine Room Safety
 - (c) Machine room doors are typically self-closing and/or self-locking.
- **ASME A17.1**
 - Requires the door to be operable from inside the machine room without the need to use a key