

## **Fatal Alert**

On December 20, 2018 at approximately 10:00 A.M., a three man tree trimming crew were trimming trees in for an apartment complex. Employee 1 was operating an extendable boom man lift with a rotating super structure. Employee 2 and employee 3 were putting trimmed limbs in a dump box trailer. Employee 1 finished trimming and began to move the man lift he was operating down the slope of a hill with the boom still raised while approaching a retaining wall. As he maneuvered the man lift over the retaining wall, a ramp that had previously been set up, slipped off the brick retaining wall and dropped approximately 6 inches with the left rear tire of the man lift dropping quickly. This action resulted in the man lift flipping over and ejecting the employee onto the pavement.

## **Significant Factors**

- The employee leaving the boom vertical as the lift came off the slope onto the ramps
- Ramps were not secured to the retaining wall to prevent slippage
- The employee choosing to take the machine up the incline

## **Recommendations**

- The employer should develop an internal training program to include review of the operator's manuals for the lifts they will be using.
- The employer should review use of man lifts on slopes in their operations.
- The employer should evaluate the need for spotters when using ramps with man lifts.