

# Contractor Fatality Tree Trimming



**Activity:** Two service contractor employees were performing tree trimming operations when the employee trimming the tree from the bucket of an aerial work platform (AWP) left the bucket to climb the tree, but remained tethered to the bucket, which the other employee was stations at the controls of the AWP. The boom unexpectedly retracted pulling the employee and tree. Despite the efforts of the second employee to stabilize the retracting boom, the tree ultimately snapped and fell to the ground, striking and killing the second employee. The trimmer fell with the broken tree and was seriously injured, but survived.

## **Potential Contributing Causes**

- Improper equipment - boom may not have been long enough to elevate the worker without having to leave the bucket
- Loss of boom control - inaccessible when employee left bucket
- Improper fall protection system, equipment- lanyard length used with restraint system shall prohibit leaving the platform
- Insufficient activity hazard analysis (AHA)

## **Communication Points**

- All necessary equipment, tools, people, and processes shall be used to mitigate **all** hazards identified by AHA.



Photo represents similar equipment