

# Safety Flash

## **Baytown Elevator Contractor Recordable Injury**

On 12/11/08, an elevator technician, who was not authorized to perform work, sustained an injury to his thumb while working on the installation of an electrical box on a rental elevator on HCU-1. The electrical box was being supported by a forklift, which was a change from the original work plan, and the technician got his thumb caught in a pinch point between the forklift forks and the bottom of the electrical box.

This incident serves as a reminder that we need to heighten our focus on work items that do not occur frequently in the Complex, like the installation of a rental elevator. Two areas are: (1) understanding the roles & responsibilities of everyone in the work crew, including who is authorized to do work and who can only provide advisory/technical support and (2) regrouping when the work plan is changed to ensure that hazards have been recognized and mitigation plans formed.

### **Incident Observations/Learnings:**

- A new JHA was not completed when the work plan changed.
- One member of the work crew, who noticed that the box was not stable, failed to communicate this to the elevator technician.
- The elevator technician was only authorized to provide technical support, not to perform work.

### **Next Steps and Recommendations:**

#### **If the type of work being done is something that happens infrequently:**

- Have the work group complete a rigorous JHA.
- Ensure the right personnel are involved to safely complete the work. Consider additional resources/oversight to follow the work.
- Ensure everyone is aligned on roles and responsibilities.
- Utilize the SCAN process as the work task is progressed.
- If the work plan changes, STOP THE WORK; conduct another JHA on the new work plan.
- **Communicate, Communicate, Communicate!** A key component of safely and successfully completing atypical/high risk work is communication. Work crews should be encouraged to communicate with each other - across craft and across companies if multiple contractors are involved in the work task.