

FATALGRAM 24-05

Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development
Division of Labor & Safety Standards
Occupational Safety & Health



Date of incident: October 9, 2024

Industry: General Industry

Location: Chugiak, Alaska

Summary: A mechanic suffered fatal crushing injuries while attempting to repair a 7 ton pneumatic jack.

Description of Accident: A male died from head injuries sustained when he rigged the pneumatic lift of the jack to its frame while attempting to fix a damaged articulating castor wheel. A catastrophic failure occurred when the mechanic actuated the air, causing the lift to jump violently and tip, landing on the mechanic. He succumbed to his injuries later the same day.

Accident Prevention Recommendations:

- Tools should be used for their intended purposes only.
- Do not perform modifications or improvisations to equipment without manufacturer's approval.
- Remove damaged equipment from service until it can be repaired in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.
- Ensure that employees are adequately trained to recognize and avoid unsafe conditions associated with hydraulic and pneumatic operations.