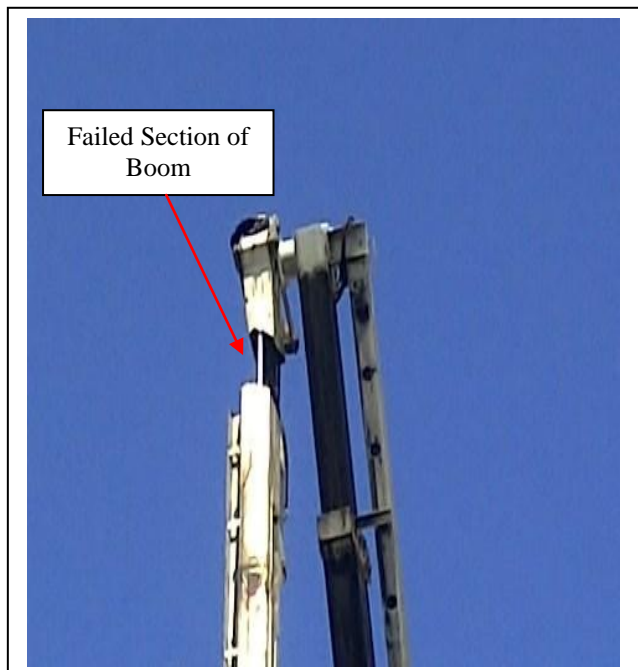


BACKGROUND:

A tree lopper has been fatally injured while working from a cherry picker. Two workers were in the process of trimming a tree adjacent to a car garage at a height of approximately 40m when, it would appear, that a section of the boom has failed resulting in them being thrown from the basket onto the roof of the garage. The other worker in the basket has survived the fall.

The apparent failure has taken place approximately mid way up the boom, the basket has then swung down in a pendulum action, throwing the workers out of the basket.

It was reported that they were both wearing a harness and connected to the basket at the time of the incident but there was insufficient clearance between the basket and the roof for the safety lanyards, which are attached to the harness, to take effect and arrest the fall before coming in contact with the roof.



RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Maintain and service all machinery in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations.
- Always conduct pre start checks prior to use and complete log books.
- All employers should ensure that any employees using any type of machinery or equipment have undergone the required training.

For information in QLD contact
Andrew Ramsay CFMEU WPH&S Officer on
0400 544 430