

## **Construction Hoists = Added Safety**

### **Technology can help personnel avoid accidents**

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Accident avoidance is a high priority, and it takes attention at every level to complete a safe project. Maintaining that attention under adverse conditions can be significantly improved when a construction elevator is part of the process.

Accidents on a modern construction site are NOT an everyday occurrence, but contractors must be ready to act swiftly, and correctly, when faced with an injured worker.

Many projects employ the benefits of a personnel hoist, or construction elevator, to economically improve the bottom line. Job schedule advantages, better productivity and better quality are known advantages gained through the use of one or more personnel hoists on the structure. Most decisions to use a construction elevator are probably driven by the cost factors. However, the additional safety advantages brought to the job should not be underestimated!

The aggressive schedules maintained on projects often require crews to work long hours, sometimes six or seven days a week. Fatigue, exhaustion and heat stress sometimes combine to distract workers from their normal level of attention. It becomes easier for them to be careless, even for a moment, though they are not careless individuals by nature. The conditions may get the best of them. During these times, everyone is more susceptible to an accident.

Just go to the top floor of a project at the end of a shift when the construction elevator is out of service. The crews DO NOT want to walk down! They are exhausted and ready to go home, carrying their tools and equipment with them back to the ground for the day. A simple lapse in attention – a slip or misstep – becomes much more likely, perhaps made worse by a crowded stairway.

Here are some of the factors leading to improved site safety when using a personnel hoist:

- Less stress on workers going to elevated floors, both mentally and physically
- More attentive workers
- Less fatigue
- Less heat-related incidents
- Expedited access by medical responders to an injured person
- Expedited rescue out of the structure when needed
- More alternatives for moving an injured employee

It is almost impossible to over exaggerate the negative effects of a serious accident or incident. The project will experience lost productivity or a shut-down while there is an investigation. A dark cloud seems to loom over the job. It takes a significant amount of time to recover from any accident on site, fatal or otherwise. Managers will lose valuable time defending the company's position, or working on strategies to mitigate the impact on the project. Time that is non-productive and costly when energies and resources *should be* turned toward the responsibilities of directing the company and finishing the project.