Incident Report

Location: San Francisco, CA
Control Type: Home Elevator Control, Relay Logic
Machine Type: Hydraulic, Otis Pump Unit
Speed: 50 fpm
Rise: 2 Stop
Hoistway Configuration: Simplex, Cornerpost, Manual Gates, Open Dome
Conditions: Repair Team performing monthly maintenance

Description of Incident

- A repair crew was performing routine maintenance on a 2 stop cornerpost hydraulic elevator.
- The crew wanted to leave the elevator as they found it; at the bottom landing with the hoistway door locked which accesses the street.
- The Probationary Apprentice entered the hoistway at the second floor with the elevator at the landing. He walked along a ledge inside the hoistway in order to reach the car calls at the back of the cab.
- The Probationary could not reach over the car gate so he climbed up onto a windowsill in order to place a first-floor car call.
- The Mechanic, with the second-floor hall gate raised, held in the gate lock while the elevator descended to the bottom street level landing.
- The Probationary, now perched on the windowsill attempted to maneuver down to the wider hoistway ledge to exit the shaft.
- The Probationary lost his footing and fell down the hoistway 21 feet until his head and upper body struck the crosshead. The Probationary continued to fall another 10 feet to the platform onto his back.
- The Mechanic called 911 and brought the elevator to the second floor, then returning to street level to meet the EMT.
- The Probationary sustained serious injuries.
Recommendations and Lessons Learned

- Always perform a JHA.
- Do not take unnecessary risks.
- Never enter an active hoistway.
- Always use fall protection where a fall hazard exists.
- Position elevator by placing calls from controller.
- Use manual lowering if necessary.
- Maintain control of the conveyance.
- Use proper Lock Out/Tag Out procedures.
- Demand proper PPE from your employer.