

Incident Summary (#5618683) (Final)

SUPPORTING INFORMATION	Incident Date		July 15, 2017	
	Location		Kamloops	
	Regulated industry sector		Above-surface Ropeway	
	Impact	Injury	Qty injuries	0
			Injury description	None
			Injury rating	None
	Damage		Damage description	Upper deck and railing bent, cracked and twisted - Abrasions on the haul rope – Indentation on Grip rollers
			Damage rating	Minor
Incident rating		Minor		
Incident overview		Workers were using a specialized carrier (work chair) to perform tasks at tower locations on chairlift. The Work Carrier cannot go through the drive and return stations without folding down handrails. The person in the Work Chair had the operator start the chairlift with the handrails in the up position. The Work Carrier handrails then collided into the station.		
INVESTIGATION CONCLUSIONS	Site, system and components		Haul rope is the main cable that supports carriers (Chairs) on a chairlift. The stations are the top and bottom terminals that change the haul rope direction of travel 180 degrees. Passengers load and unload at each station. Towers are positioned between the stations to support the haul rope and carriers. The grips clamp the carrier to the haul rope. The Work Chair is a specific carrier designed for maintenance workers only. The Work Chair is a modified carrier that has platforms attached to allow workers to perform maintenance or repairs on the chairlift towers. Some work chairs have foldable handrails that are meant to only be erected outside of the stations to aid worker safety.	
	Failure scenario(s)		Maintenance workers were using the work chair to perform tasks on the downhill side of tower #1 (close to the bottom station). Work was completed and maintenance staff wanted to move the work chair into the bottom station. Tools were cleaned up and one maintenance employee climbed from the work chair down the tower and walked to the operator control hut for the station, while another worker remained in the work chair. The personnel in the work chair called the operator via radio to start the chairlift, the operator then replied “clear to turn”. Maintenance staff in the work chair responded “clear to turn”. The chairlift was then started. Prior to entering the station, as the chairlift was in motion, it was determined by maintenance staff in the work chair that hand rail was in the incorrect position. Thus resulting in the work chair impacting the station.	
	Facts and evidence		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The lift was started with the work carrier handrail in the wrong position. -One maintenance staff employee that had been working from the work carrier had vacated the work chair and walked away and out of sight of the work chair. -Proper procedure is for the two workers in the work chair to do a double check of tools and equipment prior to calling for the chairlift to run. 	

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	Causes and contributing factors	<i>Inadequate execution of work chair procedures very likely caused the work chair to impact the station.</i>
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Photos or diagrams (if necessary)