

Thomas McEvoy
IUOE Local 4

Good Morning,

My name is Tommy McEvoy and the Safety Officer and lead instructor for the Operating Engineers Local 4. In my time here at the training center I have been called out to two fatal accidents involving personnel hoists. Both have been during the final phase of construction of the hoists. They did both have a licensed operator present, but they speak to the danger involved in setting up and operating these hoists. A danger that often goes overlooked. I strongly believe the reason we have not has any accidents where our operators are at fault is due to our strong licensing requirement in Massachusetts. In Massachusetts a hoist requires a 3a hoisting license. It is a comprehensive exam covering all lockout/ tagout concerns, wire rope inspection criteria and applicable OSHA regulations. Also depending on the style/location of the hoist it may require a separate elevator license as well. A professional license give the operator some ground to stand on while forcing passengers to adhere to the applicable state and federal guidelines. It also protects the employee from his employer. The employee can not replace an operator with just anyone. It will have to be another licensed operator who will be aware of the present dangers. I strongly support this bill. Thank you.