

Tool Box Talk

Aerial Lift Safety



(Environmental Health and Safety Data Base 2019)

Aerial lifts are vehicles mounted and boom supported platforms used for various aerial jobs. There are different types of aerial lifts, including; Scissor lifts, Telescopic lifts, and Knuckle lifts. The lift is controlled by a panel at the base of the unit or by an operator on the lift, or with a remote control. Most models have an emergency switch to lower the lift in case of power failure, or if the operator is unable to do so. The most common injuries are caused by the machine tipping over, falls, and electrocution.

Aerial Lift Injury Prevention

- Always wear protective equipment when operating the lift, including; hard hat, safety glasses, and steel toe boots.
- Workers operating the lift must be trained on how to safely use the lift.
- Inspect the lift prior to use. Nothing should be loose or out of place.
- Test the man lift before any workers get on the platform. If it's not functioning properly, or if something is damaged, it should not be used.
- Follow the manufacturers weight capacity limits. Be sure to calculate for equipment being taken on the lift as well.
- Remove all debris and slipping/tripping hazards from the platform or bucket
- Don't use scaffolding, stools, or ladders on the lift. Your feet should be firmly on the platform to reduce risk of falling.
- Avoid all overhead obstacles, especially power lines. Power lines should always be treated as active. Keep a distance of at least ten feet from power lines.
- Never override safety features.

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- Always operate in an area with proper ventilation.
- Never move the lift with workers on the platform.
- Don't position yourself between hazards; movement of the lift could cause workers to get crushed.
- Use a harness or restraining belt with a lanyard attached to the boom or bucket
- Set the brakes and use wheel chokes.
- Avoid using during windy weather.
- Keep distance between scissor lifts and other equipment to prevent it from tipping over.
- Do not sit or climb on lift.
- Clear people from the base and circumference of boom lifts.

For more information on aerial lift safety, visit:

https://www.osha.gov/Publications/aerial_lifts_safety.html

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/aerial-lifts-factsheet.pdf>

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References

Environmental Health and Safety Data Base. (2019). *Aerial Lift Safety*. Retrieved From <http://www.ehsdb.com/aerial-lift-safety.php>

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