



002: Aerial Lifts

General information

One quarter of all aerial and scissor lift fatalities are electricians.

The major causes of death are falls, electrocutions, and collapses or tip-overs.

Yes, you can die from falling off a lift. But, a lift can also fall on you—be cautious in the presence of a lift, and don't assume the driver or operator can see you.

PPE

Wear your normal PPE when on a lift. The lift doesn't provide any additional protection to the eyes or other body parts.

If you are working near power lines, wear a Class E insulated hard hat, rubber gloves and coverings, rubber sleeves, voltage-rated shoes, and other protective clothing as the job requires.

Wear a body harness when working from the platform. Attach the lanyard to the boom or platform as appropriate.

Do not attach your lanyard to a pole, structure, or other equipment.

Inspection

The company lift inspection program cannot account for damage incurred between scheduled inspections. Thus, you need to look for obvious damage such as cracked welds. If the lift is involved in an incident (e.g., collision or tip-over), do not use it until it has passed a formal inspection.

Test the controls before using the lift. If the lift operates erratically, report the problem to your foreman.

The controls must be clearly identified. If the labels on the controls are damaged, faded, illegible, or missing, report the problem to your foreman.

Operation

Don't operate an aerial lift until you have been formally trained in using it.

Don't tamper with or modify controls or safety devices. For example, do not strap a deadman switch in the closed position "just this one time"—or any other time. Don't block the footswitch or set a heavy object on it.

Observe the manufacturer's specifications and limitations for loading, extension, terrain, and other criteria as noted in the manufacturer's documentation.

Don't move the lift when the boom is elevated and carrying people.

Don't drive the lift with the power take-off engaged.

If driving on a grade, use the lowest speed setting or gearing.

Don't raise the lift unless you can see that the area above the lift is clear of obstructions, especially wires.

Plan for clearances in all directions before initiating any machine functions.

After reaching the working position, lockout the controls if possible.

Stand on the floor; do not stand or sit on the guardrails.

Discussion leader duties for this session:

Obtain an aerial lift to demonstrate key points during the question and answer session.

What this Safety Talk covers:

Inspection, operation, and hazards of aerial lifts.

Discussion notes :

