



## 075: Scissor Lifts

### *General information*

The major causes of death from scissor lifts 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 scissor lift. The lift doesn't provide any additional protection to the eyes or other body parts.

It's common to use a scissor lift indoors where energized circuits are in raceways and devices mounted overhead. Wear your hardhat and safety glasses when on the lift. You may need other PPE, as well. For example, you may have MV power distribution within the building. Check this out and wear the appropriate PPE.

Wear a safety belt when working from the platform. Attach the lanyard to the platform rails or other attachment points as appropriate.

Do not attach your lanyard to raceway, beams, or other equipment.

### *Inspection*

The company lift inspection program cannot account for damage incurred between scheduled inspections. 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 a scissor lift until you have been trained to use 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, terrain, and other criteria as noted in the manufacturer's documentation.

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

Don't raise the platform unless you can see that the area above it is clear of obstructions. If indoors, look for raceway, communications wiring, and girders.

Plan for clearances in all directions before initiating any machine functions such as raising the platform or moving the lift forward.

Stand on the floor of the platform. Do not stand or sit on the guardrails.

Plan ahead for those operations that require additional people to serve as safety-watches or to provide assistance such as traffic control.

### *Discussion leader duties for this session:*

Obtain a scissor lift to demonstrate key points during the question and answer session.

### *What this Safety Talk covers:*

Inspection, operation, and hazards of scissor lifts.

### *Discussion notes :*

