



TAILGATE SAFETY

AERIAL LIFT SAFETY

Many construction workers die each year while using aerial lifts. More than half of the deaths involve boom-supported lifts, such as bucket trucks and cherry pickers; most of the other deaths involve scissor lifts. Electrocutions, falls, and tip-overs are the cause of most of the deaths. Other causes include being caught between the lift bucket or guardrail and an object and being struck by falling objects.

Many contractors rent aerial lifts instead of buying them. If this is the case be sure the lift is properly inspected and serviced before rental, ensure a manufacturer's operating manual comes with the rental, and make sure the operator controls are easy to reach and properly marked.

Training

CAL/OSHA says a qualified person must train all users. The training must include:

- Any electrical, fall, and falling-object hazards.
- Procedures for dealing with hazards.
- How to operate the lift correctly (including maximum intended load and load capacity). The user must show he/she knows how to use the lift.
- Manufacturer requirements.
- If the hazards change, the type of aerial lift changes, or a worker is not operating a lift properly, workers must be retrained.

Safe Use of an Aerial Lift

- Do a pre-use inspection (even if it is a rental). Check operating and emergency controls, safety devices (such as, outriggers and guardrails), personal fall protection gear, wheels and tires, and other items specified by the manufacturer. Look for possible leaks (air, hydraulic fluid, and fuel-system) and loose or missing parts.
- Check the area of use. Look for hazards, such as, holes, drop-offs, bumps, and debris, and overhead power lines and other obstructions.
- Always close lift platform chains or doors.
- Stand on the floor of the bucket or lift platform. **Do not** climb on or lean over guardrails.
- Do not exceed manufacturer's load-capacity limits (including the weight of such things as bucket liners and tools).
- If working near traffic, set up work-zone warnings, like cones and signs.
- Non-electrical workers must stay at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines.
- Electrical workers must de-energize/insulate power lines or use proper personal protective equipment and tools.
- Insulated buckets protect from electrocution due to electric current passing through you and the boom to ground. An insulated bucket does not protect if there's another path to ground – for instance, if you touch another wire.
- To help keep workers inside guardrails or in buckets, OSHA requires either a full-body harness or a positioning device on bucket trucks or boom-supported lifts.
- Do not drive with the lift platform elevated (unless the manufacturer says that's OK).
- Do not exceed vertical or horizontal reach limits or the specified load-capacity of the lift.
- Set outriggers, brakes, and wheel chocks – even if you're working on a level slope.
- On an elevated scissor lift, avoid too much pushing or pulling.

Training Tips: a) Have the aerial lift that employees will be using at the jobsite to use in the operator training. b) Require employees illustrate they know how to operate the equipment – test them. c) Discuss specific jobsite hazards. d) Outline fall protection requirements. E) Review Operating Manual with them.



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