

Aerial Lift Safety

What are Aerial Lifts?

An aerial lift is a vehicle-mounted device that is used to elevate personnel. Examples of aerial lifts include extendable boom platforms, aerial ladders, articular (jointed) booming platforms, vertical towers, and any combination of the previously listed examples.

What are the Hazards Associated with Aerial Lifts?

The following hazards can lead to personal injury or death:

- Fall from elevated level
- Objects falling from lifts
- Tip-overs
- Ejections from the lift platform
- Structural failures (collapses)
- Electric shock (electrocutions)
- Entanglement hazards
- Contact with objects
- Contact with ceilings and other overhead objects



Safe Practices for Operating Aerial Lifts

- Only trained and authorized employees are allowed to operate an aerial lift.
- Personal fall arrest equipment must be used during the operation of aerial boom lifts.
- All articulating aerial booms lift must contain an engineered anchor points with a minimum load capacity of 5,000 pounds per person.
- Before operating the lift, complete a pre-operation check.
- Raise and lower the lift smoothly and with caution.
- While the lift is in motion, do not place any body parts outside the lift's basket. Stand with both feet firmly on the basket's floor. Do not get out of the lift's basket while still elevated.
- Never sit, climb or stand on the basket's guardrails or use planks, ladders or other devices to gain elevation.
- Make a visual check of all surroundings above and below the lift. Drive/raise the lift only in the direction of clear, unobstructed view.
- Be alert to keep clear of overhead hazards such as light fixtures, electrical wires, and telephone line.
- Constantly monitor activity of other people and equipment and maintain a safe operating distance.
- Maintain a safe distance from obstacles, debris, drop-offs, holes, and depressions.
- When travelling, lower the lift basket to the travelling position.

Important to Remember

- Make sure that workers who operate aerial lifts are properly trained in the safe use of the equipment.
- Inspect the aerial lift before each use.
- Maintain and operate aerial lifts according to the manufacturer's guidelines.
- Make sure that all of the wheels of an elevated lift are on a solid base.
- Do not exceed the load limits of the equipment. Allow for the combined weight of the worker(s), tools and materials.

References

- Regulation: Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations
- OSHA: [Aerial Lifts Fact Sheet](#)