

## Aerial lifts

### Introduction:

Aerial lifts provide quick and safe access to work areas that otherwise could only be reached from scaffolding or an extension ladder. As with any piece of equipment, there are safe and unsafe ways to use aerial lifts.

### Hazards to watch for:

- Operating an aerial lift without being properly trained.
- Not conducting a visual and functional inspection of the lift before use.
- Using guardrails on the lift as a step to increase reach.
- Potholes, railroad tracks, 2x4s and other uneven surfaces.
- Overriding limit switches.

### Safe procedures:

- Only trained and authorized people are allowed to operate the lift. Operators should read and understand the equipment's safety and operating instructions. This includes all of the warning decals and labels mounted on the lift.
- Always check for overhead obstructions before driving or elevating the platform.
- Perform a visual and functional inspection of the lift before each shift.

- Elevate the platform only when it is on a firm, level surface.
- Never exceed the designated height and lifting capacity identified by the manufacturer.
- Guardrails, midrails, and toe boards must be in place on the lift. Do not use rails as a step.
- Check to make sure the platform is equipped with a mechanical parking brake that is functional.
- Wear a full body harness that is properly attached to the designated attachment point if the aerial lift platform moves horizontally.
- Always maintain a safe distance from debris piles, elevation changes, floor openings, etc. Use cant strips, curbs, or build up edges when feasible.
- Be aware of electrical hazards and keep a safe distance.

### In conclusion:

Never operate an aerial lift if you have not been properly trained or if an inspection reveals there is a malfunction with the lift. Always read and follow the manufacturer's safety and operation manual.

Let's discuss how this topic pertains to safety in our operation and daily job duties.