

Aerial Lift Safety

Aerial lifts are a resourceful way of reaching high places. They can also be dangerous if we do not use the lift the way it was intended to be used. It is important that we remember to inspect the aerial lift before each use and wear our fall protection at all times.

Understanding Your Lift:

You should always read the operating and maintenance manual before using a particular vehicle. You may find things to be similar to other lifts as well as things that are different

- Know the rated workload, which includes the weight of the worker and materials
- Know how the rated workload may vary at different angles and how far it is extended
- Know the maximum platform height
- Know if working platform is electrically insulated

Full Body Harness:

When using an aerial lift, it is required that you wear a full body harness for fall protection.

- Inspect the harness and lanyard before each use
- Attach the lanyard to the boom or the basket
- Never belt off to an adjacent structure or equipment
- Always stand firmly on the floor of the basket, never letting your feet leave the platform
- Never sit or climb the edge of a basket
- Be sure you have completed fall protection training before working in on an aerial lift
- Never use a plank to bridge a gap between the lift and a structure or work surface

Aerial Lift Inspection:

Aerial lifts need to be inspected daily, and always follow the manufacturer's recommendations for maintenance and repairs.

- Make sure the insulated equipment is properly inspected and maintained, to ensure it will protect you from electricity
- Your inspection should include the lift basket, boom equipment, control cables, tires, and operating controls
- Inspect the work area for anything that could affect vehicle stability and ensure ground is level
- Do not use the lift if it is not operating properly
- Check for overhead power lines, and keep a minimum of 10 feet away from them while working
- Make sure ropes, electrical cords, and hoses do not get tangled with the lift when the platform is elevated, lowered, or moved
- Before lowering the lift, make sure the area under the platform is clear
- Before moving an aerial lift for travel, inspect the boom to see that it is properly cradled and outriggers are in stowed position
- Never move the lift with someone on it