

SAFETY TALK

Date:

Environmental Health and Safety Newsletter

March 2016

Aerial Lifts

Aerial lifts are vehicle-mounted devices that allow workers to perform work above the ground. Construction workers involved in aerial lift accidents could face falls, broken bones, or death. Approximately 26 construction workers die each year from using aerial lifts. More than half of the deaths involve boomsupported lifts, such as bucket trucks and cherry pickers. These require a body harness with an energy-absorbing lanyard connected to an anchor point provided by the manufacturer. Most of the remaining deaths are electrocutions, falls, and tip-overs involving scissor lifts. OSHA requires full guardrails on scissor lifts.

Preventing Injuries from Aerial Lifts

- Check operating and emergency controls.
- Check safety devices such as outriggers, guardrails, and personal fall protection equipment.
- Look for leaks of air, hydraulic fluid, and fuel.
- Look for a level surface that won't shift. Never exceed the manufacturer's slope limits.
- Look for hazards such as holes, bumps, debris, and overhead power lines.
- Set outriggers if equipped, brakes, and wheel chokes, even if on a level surface.
- If working near traffic, set up work zone warnings using cones and signs.

While Operating an Aerial Lift

- Always close lift platform chains or doors.
- Always wear fall arrest equipment with lanyard attached to a designated point.
- Always stand on the floor of the bucket. Do not climb on or lean over guardrails.
- Do not exceed load limits.
- Do not drive an aerial lift with the lift extended, unless designed for that purpose.

If you intend to use an aerial lift, please contact EH&S so that you may be trained prior to use. OSHA requires training every three years.

Department:	
Supervisor (please print):	
Supervisor Signature:	
Employee Participants: **Please Print Clearly**	Signature

Environmental Health and Safety

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Supervisor must perform safety talk for the noted month and ensure all employees sign off on this form. Completed form is to be kept on file by department.

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