

Aerial Lift Safety Training Grande Prairie

Aerial Lift Safety Training Grande Prairie - Each year, there are about 26 construction fatalities attributed to the use of aerial lifts. Most of the craftsmen killed are electrical workers, laborers, carpenters, painters or ironworkers. The majority of the fatalities are caused by electrocutions, falls and tip-overs. The greatest hazard is from boom-supported lifts, like for instance bucket trucks and cherry pickers. Nearly all deaths are related to this type of lift, with the rest involving scissor lifts. Other risks include being thrown out of a bucket, being struck by falling objects, and being caught between the guardrail or lift bucket and an object, like for example a joist or steel beam.

To operate an aerial lift safely, carry out a check on the following things before utilizing the device: emergency and operating controls, safety devices (e.g., guardrails and outriggers), personal fall protection gear, and wheels and tires. Look for possible leaks in the air, fuel-system, hydraulic fluid. Inspect the device for missing or loose parts.

The areas that worker would use the aerial device should be checked thoroughly for potential hazards, like holes, bumps, debris and drop-offs. Overhead powerlines have to be monitored and avoided. It is suggested that aerial lift devices be utilized on surfaces that are stable and level. Do not work on steep slopes that go beyond slope restrictions which the manufacturer specified. Even on a slope which is level, wheel chocks, outriggers and brakes should be set.

Employers are required to provide maintenance mechanics and aerial lift operators with the proper instruction manuals. Mechanics and operators need to be trained by a licensed person experienced with the applicable aerial lift model.

Aerial Lift Safety Guidelines:

- o Close doors or lift platform chains before operating.
- o Climbing on and leaning over guardrails is prohibited. Stand on the platform or floor of the bucket.
- o Stay within manufacturer's load-capacity restrictions.
- o Utilize work-zone warnings, like signs and cones, when working near traffic.

If right procedures are followed, electrocutions are avoidable. Stay at least ten feet away from any power lines and licensed electricians must de-energize and/or insulate power lines. Workers must make use of personal protective tools and equipment, such as insulated bucket. Nevertheless, an insulated bucket does not protect from electrocution if, for example, the worker touches a different wire providing a path to the ground.

When inside the bucket, workers should prevent possible falls by securing themselves to the guardrails by making use of a positioning device or a full-body harness. If there is an anchorage in the bucket, a positioning belt with a short lanyard is acceptable.

By following the manufacturer's instructions, tip-overs can be avoided. Never drive the lift platform whilst it is elevated, unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer. Adhere to the device's vertical and horizontal reach limits, and never go beyond the load-capacity which is specified.