

Whitby Aerial Lift Safety Training

Whitby Aerial Lift Safety Training - Each year, there are about 26 construction fatalities attributed to the use of aerial lifts. Most of the craftsmen killed are laborers, electrical workers, carpenters, painters or ironworkers. Nearly all fatalities are caused by falls, tip-overs and electrocutions. The greatest danger is from boom-supported lifts, like for example cherry pickers and bucket trucks. Nearly all fatalities are related to this type of lift, with the rest involving scissor lifts. Other hazards comprise being thrown out of a bucket, being struck by falling things, and being caught between the lift bucket or guardrail and a thing, such as a joist or steel beam.

The safe operation of an aerial lift needs a check on the following items prior to utilizing the device: operating and emergency controls, personal fall protection gear, safety devices, and tires and wheels. Check for possible leaks in the air, fuel-system, hydraulic fluid. Inspect the device for missing or loose components.

The places where worker will utilize the aerial device must be examined carefully for possible hazards, like for instance holes, bumps, debris and drop-offs. Overhead powerlines have to be monitored and avoided. It is recommended that aerial lift devices be used on level, stable surfaces. Do not work on steep slopes that go beyond slope limits specified by the manufacturer. Even on a slope which is level, wheel chocks, outriggers and brakes must be set.

Employers are required to provide maintenance mechanics and aerial lift operators with the correct manuals. Mechanics and operators need to be trained by a qualified individual experienced with the applicable type of aerial lift.

Aerial Lift Safety Guidelines:

- o Prior to operating, close doors and lift platform chains.
- o Do not climb on or lean over guardrails. Stand on the floor of the bucket or platform.
- o Stay within manufacturer's load-capacity restrictions.
- o Utilize work-zone warnings, like for instance cones and signs, when working near traffic.

If right procedures are followed, electrocutions are preventable. Stay at least 10 feet away from whichever power lines and certified electricians should insulate and/or de-energize power lines. Those working should use personal protective tools and equipment, like for instance insulated bucket. Nevertheless, a bucket which is insulated does not protect from electrocution if, for instance, the worker touches another wire providing a path to the ground.

Falls are preventable if the person working remains secure inside guardrails or inside the bucket by using a positioning device or a full-body harness. If there is an anchorage within the bucket, a positioning belt with a short lanyard is adequate.

Tip-overs are preventable by following the manufacturer's directions. Unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer, never drive when the lift platform is elevated. Adhere to the vertical and horizontal reach limitations of the device, and never go beyond the load-capacity which is specified.