



Aerial Lifts Safety

Aerial lifts include scissor lifts, boom lifts, and bucket trucks. Here are some reasons why construction workers are killed or injured every year while using this equipment:

- They were not wearing a harness and fell off the equipment.
- They fell with the equipment when it tipped over.
- They were electrocuted when the equipment touched a power line or electrical wires.

Al's Story

Al was working in a boom lift to reach a sign he needed to repair. The sign was located near some electrical wires. Al was not provided with a body harness. While he was working, the truck shifted. Al lost his balance, fell 20 feet to the ground, and died.

- ✖ What caused this incident?
- ✖ How could this have been prevented?
- ✖ Have you ever been injured while using an aerial lift or do you know someone who has? If so, what happened?

Remember This

Before operating an aerial lift:

- Check operating and emergency controls.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions and set outriggers, brakes, and wheel chocks, even if on a level surface that won't shift. **Never** exceed manufacturer's slope limits.

- Look for potential hazards such as potholes, bumps, or debris that could cause the lift to tip over.
- Avoid contact with overhead hazards such as electrical wires or power lines.
- Ask your supervisor to make sure that electrical wires or power lines near the work area have been de-energized.
- Close lift-platform chains/bars or gates, and check guardrails. OSHA requires guardrails on scissor lifts.
- Check personal fall protection equipment. If there are signs of damage, your employer should give you new equipment.
- Look for leaks of air, hydraulic fluid, and fuel.
- **Always** follow the procedures in the user manual.
- Set up cones and signs as work zone warnings, if working near traffic.

While operating an aerial lift:

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

How can we stay safe today?

What will we do at the worksite to prevent injuries from aerial lifts?

OSHA Standard: 1926.453. OSHA considers aerial lifts to be supported scaffolds.



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*Check out the
NIOSH Aerial Lift
Simulator app:*



- Always** set outriggers, brakes, and wheel chocks – even if on a level surface.
- Always** stand on the floor of the bucket. **Do not** climb on or lean over the guardrails.
- Always** wear fall arrest equipment with lanyard attached to a designated anchor point.
- Avoid contact with overhead hazards like electrical wires or power lines.

**GET
INFORMATION**

CDC/NIOSH INFO: 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) | TTY: 1-800-232-6348 | cdc.gov/info | cdc.gov/niosh

CPWR: Contact 301-578-8500 | cpwr-r2p@cpwr.com | www.cpwr.com/toolbox-talks

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