



Aerial Lift 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.

