

Moving On Up: Using Aerial Lifts Safely



Overview

- Lifts vary; check manufacturer's operating instructions for the rated load capacity and maximum extension requirements.
- Get training on each machine you use, and certification, if required.

Perform Daily Inspections

- Check the oil, fuel, coolant, hoses, cylinders, tires and structural condition.
- Check guardrails, gates or chains, and other fall prevention mechanisms.
- Check the electrical system on electric lifts.
- Check the hydraulic fluid level and pressure on hydraulic lifts.
- Use the ground controls to test each function.

Inspect Work Areas

- Area should be free from ground/overhead obstructions, debris, holes and ledges.
- Hole covers must bear at least two times the maximum axle load.
- De-energize electrical sources that are close to where the lift will be operating.

Follow Proper Operating Procedures

- Enter/exit the lift only from the lowered position.
- Fasten the gate or chain before moving.
- Travel with the lift either completely lowered, or slightly raised if this allows better visibility.
- Adjust your speed to the terrain and try to avoid rough areas.
- When stopping, make sure the ground is stable and level.
- Set the brakes.
- Position outriggers, if available, before raising the platform.



Use Fall Protection

- Use a personal fall restraint system while working on lifts that are designed for their use. This includes many brands of scissors lifts.
- Don't use a personal fall restraint system on scissors lifts that are not designed for their use.
- If you have any questions on whether to use a fall restraint system, check the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Always wear a full-body harness when using a personal fall restraint system.
- Don't use a deceleration device or a lanyard with a built-in deceleration system.
- Your lanyard should be just long enough to allow you to work on the platform, but should not allow you to lean out or step up on the mid-rails.
- Attach the lanyard only to the anchorage points designed specifically by the manufacturer for the purpose.

Follow Safe Work Practices

- Keep your feet on the platform and your body inside the rails.
- Never step up on a rail or use rails to support a make-shift platform.
- Use good housekeeping.
- Never use ladders, buckets, boxes or any other objects to increase your height inside a lift platform.
- Communicate with partners before changing position or moving the platform.
- Keep your loads moderate and the weight evenly distributed.
- Don't use the lift to raise heavy equipment or materials.
- Avoid driving long distances with the platform extended. Use extreme caution when moving the lift short distances with the platform extended.