

AERIAL LIFT (MEWP)

An aerial lift is any vehicle-mounted device used to elevate personnel. This includes extendable boom platforms, aerial ladders, articulating (jointed) boom platforms, vertical towers, and any combination of the preceding. Aerial lifts have replaced ladders and scaffolding on many job sites due to their mobility and flexibility. They may be made of metal, fiberglass-reinforced plastic, or other materials. They may be powered or manually operated. Many workers are injured or killed on aerial lifts each year. The following information may help workers recognize and avoid safety hazards they may encounter when they use aerial lifts.



ASSOCIATED HAZARDS

The following hazards, among others can lead to personal injury or death:

- Fall from elevated level
- Objects falling from lifts
- Tip-overs
- Ejections from the lift platform
- Structural failures (collapse)
- Electrical shock (electrocution)
- Entanglement hazards
- Contact with objects
- Contact with ceilings
- Contact with overhead objects

OPERATOR TRAINING

- Prior to operating an Aerial Lift the operator **MUST** successfully complete a training course consisting of a combination of formal instruction, practical training and evaluation of the operator's performance in the workplace.
- Trainees may operate an Aerial Lift only under the direct supervision of a Qualified Trainer.
- Formal instruction must include a written test to verify classroom competency.
- Refresher (hands-on) training shall be performed no less than every three years by a Qualified Trainer.

SAFE OPERATION

Fall Protection

- Ensure access gates or openings are closed.
- Stand firmly on the floor of the lift or bucket.
- Do not climb on or lean over guardrails/handrails.
- Use a body harness with a lanyard attached to the equipment anchor point.
- Do not belt-off to adjacent structures or poles while in the bucket.

Operation/Traveling

- Do not exceed the load-capacity limits.
- Do not use aerial lift as a crane.
- Be aware of overhead objects and clearance.

PRE-USE INSPECTION

- Pre-Use inspections must be completed at the beginning of each shift or before operating.
- Inspections must be documented (including both the lift inspection as well as the Work Place inspection).
- If the Aerial Lift is in need of repair or is in any way unsafe, it is the operator's responsibility to report the matter immediately to have the equipment taken out of operational status.

