

Victoria Aerial Lift Safety Training

Victoria Aerial Lift Safety Training - There are approximately 26 to 30 construction fatalities in North America attributed to the use of aerial lifts. Most of the individuals killed are craftsmen like for example painters, electrical workers, laborers, carpenters or ironworkers. Nearly all fatalities are caused by tip-overs, electrocutions and falls. The greatest hazard is from boom-supported lifts, like for example bucket trucks and cherry pickers. Nearly all deaths are connected to this particular kind of lift, with the rest involving scissor lifts. Other risks comprise being struck by falling objects, being thrown out of a bucket, and being caught between the lift bucket or guardrail and an object, like for example a joist or steel beam.

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

The area where the device would be used must be carefully checked for possible hazards, like for example holes, bumps, debris and drop-offs. Overhead power lines must be closely monitored or avoided. It is recommended that aerial lift devices be used on surfaces that are stable and level. Do not work on steep slopes that go beyond slope restrictions which the manufacturer specified. Even on a level slope, outriggers, brakes and wheel chocks must be set.

Employers are required to provide aerial lift operators and maintenance mechanics with the right manuals. Mechanics and operators should be trained by a licensed person experienced with the relevant aerial lift model.

Aerial Lift Safety Tips:

- o Close lift platform chains or doors prior to operating.
- o Do not lean over or climb on guardrails. Stand on the floor of the bucket or platform.
- o Utilize the provided manufacturer's load-capacity restrictions.
- o When working near traffic, utilize proper work-zone warnings, like for example cones and signs.

Electrocutions are avoidable if safety procedures are followed. Stay as far away from power lines - at least 10 feet. Experienced electrical workers should insulate and/or de-energize power lines. Workers need to make use of personal protective tools and equipment, like for example insulated bucket. Nonetheless, an insulated bucket does not protect from electrocution if, for example, the worker touches another wire providing a path to the ground.

When in the bucket, workers must prevent possible falls by securing themselves to the guardrails by making use of a full-body harness or a positioning device. If there is an anchorage inside the bucket, a positioning belt with a short lanyard is acceptable.

By following the manufacturer's directions, tip-overs can be avoided. Never drive the lift platform when it is elevated, unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer. Follow the device's horizontal and vertical reach limitations, and never exceed the specified load-capacity.