



Safety Tip of the Week

Your Safety Is Our Business®

Volume 2, Issue 23

June 7th, 2015

Aerial Work Platforms

Man-lifts and scissor lifts are two pieces of equipment that many workers can't imagine working without. This equipment, if used correctly, provides quick and safe access to work areas that at one time could only be reached from scaffolding or a crane's man-basket. These lifts, collectively called Aerial Work Platforms, are important tools. But as with any tool, there are right and wrong ways to use them safely.



The most important tip to remember before operating any aerial lift platform is: Always read and follow the manufacturer's safety and operation manual! This information must be kept on the rig and can usually be found in a PVC tube that's tied to the machine's frame or rails.

Safe Operating Procedures for Man-lifts and Scissor Lifts:

- Set outriggers, brakes, and wheel chocks – even if you're working on a level slope.
- If working near traffic, set up work-zone warnings such as cones and signs.
- Close lift platform chains or doors.
- Stand on the floor of the bucket or lift platform. Do not climb on or lean over guardrails.
- NEVER exceed manufacturer's load-capacity limits. Always allow for the combined weight of the worker(s), tools, and materials.
- NEVER override hydraulic, mechanical, or electrical safety devices. NEVER use planks, boxes, or other items inside the basket to extend their reach.

Working with and around aerial lift devices always presents some risks. It takes everyone working together to minimize hazards and create a safer work environment.

Follow all safety policies and procedures. If you are ever unsure about how to safely operate or work around an aerial lift device, see your supervisor immediately.

It's better to correct an unsafe friend than to bury one!!