

Aerial lifts

Aerial lifts are powered and mobile platforms that are used for elevating workers to various heights.

Where and Why are Aerial Lifts Used?

Aerial lifts are popular at various jobsites including:

- Construction,
- Warehousing,
- General building maintenance; and
- Other industries that are required to elevate workers to move materials, change lightbulbs, store boxes, and other tasks.

Aerial lifts are frequently used instead of scaffolding, which lacks mobility, calls for excessive setup time, and exposes workers to traumatic injury, especially during the assembly and disassembly stages.

Aerial lifts are mobile, can be deployed to various jobsites, can elevate to substantial heights and involve minimal setup time. Consequently, their use is increasing for various industrial jobs, such as painting, tile and drywall installation, and maintenance.

Risks Associated with Aerial Lifts

Aerial lifts can also expose workers to risks, such as fall-related hazards, because they are mobile, are used as elevating equipment and are considered to be a restricted work space. In addition, there are various hazards that workers are exposed to because the platform can be used in a variety of conditions, some of them not approved. In recent years, a number of workers who operate aerial lifts have been injured or killed while using this equipment, from falls and other exposures. 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 (collapses),
- Electric shock (electrocutions),
- Entanglement hazards,
- Contact with objects, and
- Contact with ceilings and other overhead objects.

Only trained and authorized persons are allowed to operate an aerial lift. Workers should be retrained if any of the following conditions occur:

- An accident occurs during aerial lift use,
- Workplace hazards involving an aerial lift are discovered, or
- A different type of aerial lift is used.

Employers are also required to retrain workers who they observe operating an aerial lift improperly.

