

Aerial Lift Safety

Safe Practices for Scissors and Boom Lift Work

Whether working on a scissors or boom lift, using safe work practices will help keep you and others safe from aerial lift hazards.

Overview

- Become familiar with the lift manufacturer's operating instructions

Load Capacity

- Load capacity considerations include Weight of Occupants + Tools + Materials + Equipment
- Check rated load capacity, max. extension and side load parameters, and lateral reach (boom lifts)
- Capacity is affected by load weight, platform height
- Boom lift capacity is also affected by boom angle and extension length

Inspect and Test Your Lift Each Day Before Using

- **All Lifts:** Check the entire lift for structural damage
- **Motorized Lifts:** Check oil, coolant and fuel
- **Electrical Lifts:** Check electrical system, condition of batteries, batteries fully charged
- **All Hydraulic Systems:** Check fluid levels, hydraulic pressure; cylinders and hoses

Important Safety Features

- Guardrails
- Chain or gate
- Designated lanyard attachment points

Tires

- **All Tires:** Make sure tires are securely attached, look for splits/cracks/missing pieces of tread
- **Inflatable Tires:** Check pressure in each tire

Function Testing

- **Ground Controls:** Run through each function
- **Remote Controls:** Run through each function from lift platform
- **Final Check:** Hydraulic fluid leaks

What to Do When There Are Problems With a Lift

- Don't use the lift
- Place "Out of Service" tag on lift and immediately report the problem to your supervisor

Fall Prevention & Protection

- **Fall Restraint Systems:** To prevent you from getting into a position where you could fall—full-body harness, short non-shock absorbing lanyard or a short Self-Retracting Lifeline (SRL)
- **Fall Arrest Systems:** To protect you from severe injury if you do fall—full-body harness, shock absorbing lanyard or SRL limiting free fall to 6' or less
- **Properly Connected Lanyards or SRLs:** Attach to lift manufacturer's designated lanyard attachment points only
- **Scissor Lifts:** Fall restraint systems are highly recommended; **never** use a fall arrest system
- **Boom Lifts:** Require a fall restraint or fall arrest system
- **Aerial Lifts:** Never step up on mid-rails, top-rails or anything else to extend reach. Use vertical access attachments to extend reach, or use a scaffold or ladder platform

Safe Operating Procedures

- **Evaluate Ground Conditions:** Conduct a walk-through, look for obstructions and construction materials, cover and mark holes, mark ledges/drop-offs, avoid driving through standing water
- **Perform a Task Hazard Analysis:** Visibility, energized electrical conductors/circuit parts, terrain, load weight and bulk, distribute weight evenly, secure power cords/hoses/welding leads with breakaway lanyards or slip knots