

Toolbox Talk – Aerial Lifts

Falls from elevations can result in serious injuries or even death. Aerial platforms are designed and built with safety features to help minimize the potential for worker injuries. These features include handrails, mid-rails, and toe-boards to help prevent falls and injuries from falling materials. To help ensure safety when using aerial lifts, follow these procedures:

- **Test lift controls each day prior to use to determine that such controls are in safe working condition.**
- **Before operating, conduct a 360° look-around to check the surrounding work area to ensure that the lift is on a firm, level surface that is free from debris. Look out for anything that might make you lose control or cause the aerial platform to tip over.**
- **When riding on aerial lifts, stand firmly on the floor of the basket.**
- **Do not climb on the edge or rails of the basket, use planks, ladders, or any other devices to position yourself.**



- **Use a full body harness with a self retracting lifeline (SRL) attached to the personnel basket anchorage points to prevent being ejected.**
 - **Maintain a minimum clearance of at least 10 feet away from the nearest overhead power lines. High voltage lines (over 50kV) require more distance.**
 - **Do not exceed the load limits of the equipment. Working load includes the combined weight of the worker, tools, and materials.**
 - **Never use the lift as a hoist or crane—do not hang material off the outside of the basket.**
 - **Never move the equipment with workers in an elevated platform unless the manufacturer permits it. When traveling with the platform in a raised position, use extreme caution and very low speeds. Have a spotter on the ground to direct the lift.**
- **Never use an aerial lift unless you have been properly trained in its use and hold a certified user's card.**
 - **Be aware of other workers in the vicinity of the lift. Ensure a controlled access zone is in place by means of a monitor or warning chain, cord, caution tape and signage stating the hazard.**
 - **Do not operate a lift in wind speeds over 28 MPH.**
 - **Make certain everyone is clear of the machine before you begin lowering the platform.**

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