



## Aerial Lift Safety

**Course Number:** HS-02-102

**PDH:** 1

**Approved for:** AK, AL, AR, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NV, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VT, WI, WV, and WY

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# OSHA Fact Sheet

## Using Aerial Lifts

The major causes of injuries and fatalities involving aerial lifts are falls, electrocutions, and collapses or tip-overs. Aerial devices include boom-supported aerial platforms, such as cherry pickers or bucket trucks, aerial ladders and vertical towers (OSHA regulates scissor lifts as mobile scaffolds, not as aerial devices). Safe work practices for aerial lifts include:

- Ensure that workers who operate aerial lifts are properly trained in the safe use of the equipment. Test the controls and inspect the aerial lift before use each day. Make sure that all controls are clearly marked as to their function.
- Never override hydraulic, mechanical or electrical safety devices. Maintain and operate aerial lifts according to the manufacturer's instructions. Always stand firmly on the basket floor. Do not sit or climb on the edge or rails of the basket. Never use planks, boxes or other items inside the basket to extend your reach.
- Ensure that all wheels of an elevated lift are on a solid base. Use outriggers, if provided. Set the brakes and use wheel chocks when on an incline. Do not exceed the load limits of the equipment. Allow for the combined weight of the worker(s), tools and materials.
- De-energize and lockout/tagout aerial lifts before performing any maintenance or repairs.

### Working near Power Lines

Maintain a minimum clearance of at least 10 feet away from the nearest overhead line. In addition, any conductive object that can be contacted must be maintained at least 10 feet from overhead

lines. Conductive objects could be wires, transformers, ducts, pipes or other equipment. Always treat overhead lines as energized, even if they are down or appear to be insulated. (Qualified power line and communications workers and qualified line-clearance tree trimmers are trained to work closer than 10 feet to a power line. See OSHA's Tree Trimming Fact Sheet and Quick Card.) Never lose awareness of the overhead hazard.

### Struck-by, Crushed-by, or Caught-in Hazards

Establish and clearly mark a danger zone around the aerial lift support vehicle. Never move the equipment with workers in the elevated platform unless the equipment has been specifically designed for this type of operation. Do not allow workers to position themselves between overhead hazards, such as joists and beams, and the rails of the basket. If the basket moves, the worker(s) could become trapped and crushed between the rails and the overhead object.

### Fall Protection

Do not allow workers to belt off to an adjacent pole, structure or equipment while working from an aerial lift. Use a body harness or positioning device with a lanyard attached to the boom or basket to prevent the worker from being ejected or pulled from the basket.

**This is one in a series of informational fact sheets highlighting OSHA programs, policies or standards. It does not impose any new compliance requirements. For a comprehensive list of compliance requirements of OSHA standards or regulations, refer to Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This information will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. The voice phone is (202) 693-1999; teletypewriter (TTY) number: (877) 889-5627.**

For more complete information:



U.S. Department of Labor

[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

(800) 321-OSHA

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## **Aerial Lifts**

### **Protect Yourself**

Aerial lifts are vehicle-mounted, boom-supported aerial platforms, such as cherry pickers or bucket trucks, used to access utility lines and other above-ground job sites. The major causes of fatalities are falls, electrocutions, and collapses or tip overs. Employers must take measures to ensure the safe use of aerial lifts by their workers if they are required to use this equipment in the course of their employment.

#### **Safe Work Practices**

- Make sure that workers who operate aerial lifts are properly trained in the safe use of the equipment.
- Maintain and operate elevating work platforms according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Never override hydraulic, mechanical, or electrical safety devices.
- Never move the equipment with workers in an elevated platform unless this is permitted by the manufacturer.
- Do not allow workers to position themselves between overhead hazards, such as joists and beams, and the rails of the basket. Movement of the lift could crush the worker(s).
- Maintain a minimum clearance of at least 10 feet, or 3 meters, away from the nearest energized overhead lines.
- Always treat power lines, wires and other conductors as energized, even if they are down or appear to be insulated.
- Use a body harness or restraining belt with a lanyard attached to the boom or basket to prevent the worker(s) from being ejected or pulled from the basket.
- Set the brakes and use wheel chocks when on an incline.
- Use outriggers, if provided.
- Do not exceed the load limits of the equipment. Allow for the combined weight of the worker, tools and materials.

**For more information:**

## **Plataformas de trabajo a áreas**

Las plataformas de trabajo a áreas son vehículos montados, plataformas elevadas de aguilón sostenido, como lo son las de puntal extensible con canasta (mejor conocidas como "cherry pickers") o los camiones canasta, usados para acceder líneas de utilidades y otros trabajos sobre el terreno del lugar de trabajo. Las principales causas de muertes son por caídas, electrocuciones y colapsos o volteos. Los empleadores deben tomar medidas para garantizar el uso seguro de las plataformas de trabajo a áreas por sus trabajadores si ellos están obligados a utilizar este equipo durante el curso de su trabajo.

### **Prácticas de trabajo seguras**

- Asegúrese que los trabajadores que operan plataformas de trabajo a áreas estén adecuadamente adiestrados en el uso seguro del equipo.
- Mantenga y opere las plataformas de trabajo elevadas de acuerdo con las instrucciones del fabricante.
- Nunca invalide los dispositivos de seguridad hidráulicos, mecánicos o eléctricos.
- Nunca mueva el equipo con trabajadores en una plataforma elevada, a menos que sea permitido por el fabricante.
- No permita a los trabajadores ponerse entre riesgos que estén por encima de la cabeza, como viguetas y vigas, y las barandas del canasto. El movimiento de la plataformas de trabajo a áreas puede aplastar al trabajador.
- Mantenga una distancia mínima segura de las líneas eléctricas aéreas energizadas más cercanas de al menos 10 pies o 3 metros.
- Siempre trate a las líneas de energía eléctrica, alambres y otros conductores como si estuvieran energizados (vivos), aún si están fuera de servicio o parece que están aislados.
- Use un arnés de cuerpo o correa que restrinja el movimiento con una cuerda de seguridad atada al aguilón o canasto para prevenir que el trabajador salga disparado o sea tirado del canasto.
- Ponga los frenos y use calzos cuando esté en un área inclinada.
- Use estabilizadores, si son provistos.
- No exceda la carga límite del equipo. Tome en cuenta el peso combinado del trabajador, herramientas y materiales.

**Para más información:**



**Administración de  
Seguridad y Salud  
Ocupacional**

**Departamento de Trabajo de los EE. UU.**

**[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov) (800) 321-OSHA (6742)**