

## Aerial Lift Safety Training Victoria

Aerial Lift Safety Training Victoria - Each year, there are roughly 26 construction fatalities attributed to the utilization of aerial lifts. Most of the craftsmen killed are electrical workers, laborers, painters, ironworkers or carpenters. Nearly all deaths are caused by falls, tip-overs and electrocutions. The greatest danger is from boom-supported lifts, such as bucket trucks and cherry pickers. The majority of the deaths are connected to this type of lift, with the rest involving scissor lifts. Other dangers include being thrown out of a bucket, being struck by falling objects, and being caught between the lift bucket or guardrail and a thing, like for example a steel beam or joist.

The safe operation of an aerial lift needs a check on the following items before using the device: emergency and operating controls, safety devices, personal fall protection gear, and wheels and tires. Check for possible leaks in the air, fuel-system, hydraulic fluid. Inspect the device for missing or loose components.

The location where the device would be used must be carefully checked for potential hazards, like for example holes, bumps, drop-offs and debris. Overhead power lines should be closely monitored or avoided. It is suggested that aerial lift devices be used on level, stable surfaces. Never work on steep slopes that exceed slope limits which the manufacturer specified. Even on a level slope, outriggers, brakes and wheel chocks should be set.

Businesses should provide their aerial lift operators with the right manuals. Mechanics and operators need to be trained by a licensed individual experienced with the relevant aerial lift model.

### Aerial Lift Safety Tips:

- o Prior to operating, close doors and lift platform chains.
- o Leaning over and climbing on guardrails is prohibited. Stand on the platform or floor of the bucket.
- o Stay within manufacturer's load-capacity restrictions.
- o When working near traffic, make use of correct work-zone warnings, like for example signs and cones.

Electrocutions are avoidable if safety procedures are followed. Stay as far away from power lines - at least 10 feet. Qualified electrical workers must insulate and/or de-energize power lines. Workers should utilize personal protective equipment and tools, like a bucket that is insulated. However, a bucket which is insulated does not protect from electrocution if, for instance, the individual working touches a different wire providing a path to the ground.

When in the bucket, workers have to prevent possible falls by securing themselves to the guardrails by utilizing a positioning device or a full-body harness. If there is an anchorage in the bucket, a positioning belt along with a short lanyard is acceptable.

By following the manufacturer's directions, tip-overs could be avoided. Never drive the lift platform whilst it is elevated, unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer. Follow the device's horizontal and vertical reach limitations, and never go beyond the specified load-capacity.