

Aerial Lifts

Aerial lifts might be used to accomplish a lot of unique duties done in hard to reach aerial places. Many of the odd jobs associated with this kind of jack include performing regular repair on structures with high ceilings, repairing phone and utility lines, raising burdensome shelving units, and trimming tree branches. A ladder might also be used for some of the aforementioned projects, although aerial platform lifts provide more safety and strength when correctly used.

There are several designs of aerial platform lifts existing on the market depending on what the task needed involves. Painters often use scissor aerial lifts for example, which are classified as mobile scaffolding, effective in painting trim and reaching the 2nd story and higher on buildings. The scissor aerial platform lifts use criss-cross braces to stretch out and lengthen upwards. There is a platform attached to the top of the braces that rises simultaneously as the criss-cross braces lift.

Cherry pickers and bucket trucks are another variety of the aerial hoist. Commonly, they contain a bucket at the end of a long arm and as the arm unfolds, the attached bucket lift rises. Forklifts utilize a pronged arm that rises upwards as the lever is moved. Boom lifts have a hydraulic arm that extends outward and lifts the platform. All of these aerial hoists call for special training to operate.

Through the Occupational Safety & Health Association, also called OSHA, education programs are on hand to help make certain the workers meet occupational values for safety, system operation, inspection and maintenance and machine weight capacities. Workers receive qualifications upon completion of the course and only OSHA licensed personnel should operate aerial hoists. The Occupational Safety & Health Organization has developed rules to uphold safety and prevent injury while using aerial hoists. Common sense rules such as not utilizing this apparatus to give rides and making sure all tires on aerial lift trucks are braced so as to hinder machine tipping are observed within the rules.

Unfortunately, data illustrate that more than 20 operators pass away each year while running aerial lift trucks and 8% of those are commercial painters. Most of these accidents are due to inappropriate tire bracing and the lift falling over; therefore a lot of these deaths were preventable. Operators should make sure that all wheels are locked and braces as a critical security precaution to prevent the instrument from toppling over.

Additional guidelines include marking the surrounding area of the device in an observable manner to safeguard passers-by and to guarantee they do not come too close to the operating machine. It is crucial to ensure that there are also 10 feet of clearance between any utility cables and the aerial lift. Operators of this machinery are also highly recommended to always have on the proper security harness when up in the air.