

Aerial Lift Safety Training Red Deer

Aerial Lift Safety Training Red Deer - There are approximately 26 to 30 construction fatalities in North America attributed to the utilization of aerial lifts. Nearly all of those killed are craftsmen like for example painters, electrical workers, laborers, carpenters or ironworkers. Nearly all deaths are caused by falls, tip-overs and electrocutions. The greatest risk is from boom-supported lifts, like cherry pickers and bucket trucks. Most fatalities are related to this particular type of lift, with the rest involving scissor lifts. Other hazards include being thrown out of a bucket, being struck by falling things, and being caught between the lift bucket or guardrail and an object, like a joist or steel beam.

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. Inspect for possible leaks in the air, hydraulic fluid and fuel-system. Check the device for loose or missing components.

The area where the device would be used must be carefully inspected for possible dangers, like for instance bumps, holes, drop-offs and debris. Overhead power lines should be avoided or closely monitored. It is suggested that aerial lift devices be utilized on level, stable surfaces. Don't work on steep slopes that go beyond slope restrictions specified by the manufacturer. Even on a slope that is level, outriggers, brakes and wheel chocks must be set.

Employers are needed to provide maintenance mechanics and aerial lift operators with the proper instruction manuals. Mechanics and operators must be trained by a qualified individual experienced with the applicable type of aerial lift.

Aerial Lift Safety Guidelines:

- o Close doors or lift platform chains before operating.
- o Climbing on and leaning over guardrails is prohibited. Stand on the platform or floor of the bucket.
- o Utilize the provided manufacturer's load-capacity restrictions.
- o Utilize work-zone warnings, like for instance signs and cones, when working near traffic.

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

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

By following the manufacturer's directions, tip-overs can be prevented. Never drive the lift platform when it is elevated, unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer. Follow the horizontal and vertical reach restrictions of the device, and never exceed the specified load-capacity.