

Toolbox Talk

Aerial Lifts

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INTRODUCTION:

Aerial lifts are essential equipment used in construction, maintenance, and various other industries to perform tasks at heights. While these lifts provide convenience and efficiency, improper use can lead to accidents and injuries. This toolbox talk emphasizes safe practices for aerial lift operations.

OBJECTIVE:

- Educate workers about the safe operation of aerial lifts.
- Identify potential hazards and methods to mitigate them.
- Promote adherence to safety standards and regulations.
- Ensure proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Prepare workers to respond effectively to emergencies.

POTENTIAL HAZARDS:

- Falls from Heights: Caused by improper use of guardrails or failure to use a harness.
- Tip-overs: Overloading, uneven ground, or improper positioning.
- Electrocutation: Contact with overhead power lines or electrical sources.
- Entanglement: Being caught in moving parts of the lift.
- Collisions: Striking structures, equipment, or other workers.
- Malfunctioning equipment due to poor maintenance or improper inspection.



Prevention:

- Check for visible damages, leaks, and wear on the lift.
- Ensure controls, brakes, and safety devices function correctly.
- Identify hazards like overhead power lines and uneven terrain.
- Mark off restricted areas around the lift.
- Never exceed the lift's weight capacity.
- Secure tools and equipment to prevent them from falling.
- Ensure the lift is on stable and level ground.
- Avoid using lifts on soft soil or slopes unless designed for such conditions.
- Only authorized and trained personnel should operate aerial lifts.
- Familiarize operators with equipment manuals and safety protocols.

Prevention:

- Tip-Overs: Stay in the platform, hold guardrails, and brace for impact.
- Power Failures: Use emergency controls to lower the lift safely.
- Falls: Deploy rescue equipment; do not move the lift during rescue.
- Electrical Contact: Disconnect power if safe, call emergency services, and stay clear until cleared.

Do's:

- Use a full-body harness and lanyard attached to the lift's designated anchor point.
- Conduct pre-use inspections before every shift.
- Keep a safe distance from overhead power lines (minimum 10 feet).
- Communicate clearly with ground personnel during operations.
- Lower the lift platform to the ground before relocating the equipment.

Don'ts:

- Do not exceed the lift's weight capacity, including tools and materials.
- Do not use the lift in adverse weather conditions (e.g., high winds, lightning).
- Do not override safety controls or use defective equipment.
- Do not lean over guardrails or climb out of the lift platform.
- Do not use the lift for unintended purposes, such as hoisting materials.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- Wear a harness with a lanyard secured to the anchor point.
- Use a hard hat, non-slip footwear, and insulated gloves if near electricity.
- Inspect all PPE before use.

Conclusion:

Aerial lifts are useful but risky. Understanding hazards, following safety protocols, and using PPE minimizes risks. Stay alert, follow guidelines, and report unsafe conditions promptly.



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TOOLBOX TALK

TITLE: AERIAL LIFTS

INTRODUCTION

Aerial lifts are essential equipment used in construction, maintenance, and other industries to perform tasks at height. While they improve efficiency, improper use can result in serious accidents and injuries. This toolbox talk highlights safe practices for aerial lift operations.

OBJECTIVES

- Educate workers on safe aerial lift operation
- Identify potential hazards and mitigation methods
- Promote compliance with safety standards
- Ensure proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Prepare workers for emergency response

POTENTIAL HAZARDS

- **Falls from Heights:** Improper use of guardrails or no harness
- **Tip-Overs:** Overloading, uneven ground, poor positioning
- **Electrocution:** Contact with overhead power lines
- **Entanglement:** Contact with moving parts
- **Collisions:** Striking structures, equipment, or personnel
- **Equipment Failure:** Poor maintenance or lack of inspection

PREVENTION MEASURES

- Inspect for damage, leaks, and wear before use
- Ensure controls, brakes, and safety devices work properly
- Identify hazards such as overhead power lines and uneven terrain
- Mark restricted work zones around the lift
- Never exceed the lift's rated capacity
- Secure tools and materials to prevent falling
- Use lifts only on stable, level ground
- Avoid soft soil or slopes unless equipment is rated for it

- Allow only trained and authorized operators
 - Follow manufacturer's instructions and site procedures
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✔ Do's

- Use a **full-body harness and lanyard** attached to anchor point
 - Perform **pre-use inspections** before each shift
 - Maintain safe distance from power lines (minimum 10 feet / 3 meters)
 - Communicate clearly with ground personnel
 - Lower platform before moving equipment
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✘ Don'ts

- Do not exceed load capacity (including tools/materials)
- Do not operate in high winds or severe weather
- Do not override safety controls
- Do not use defective equipment
- Do not climb out of or lean over guardrails
- Do not use lifts for unintended purposes (e.g., lifting materials only)

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

- Full-body harness with lanyard
- Hard hat
- Non-slip safety footwear
- Gloves (especially near electrical hazards)
- Inspect PPE before use

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- **Tip-Over:** Stay inside platform, brace yourself
- **Power Failure:** Use emergency lowering controls
- **Fall Incident:** Do not move lift; initiate rescue plan
- **Electrical Contact:** Shut off power if safe, call emergency services

CONCLUSION

Aerial lifts are highly useful but present serious risks. Understanding hazards, following safety procedures, and using proper PPE significantly reduce accidents. Stay alert, follow guidelines, and report unsafe conditions immediately.
