

## Oakville Aerial Lift Safety Training

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

The safe operation of an aerial lift needs an inspection on the following things prior to making use of the device: operating and emergency controls, safety devices, personal fall protection gear, and tires and wheels. Look for possible leaks in the air, hydraulic fluid and fuel-system. Check the device for missing or loose parts.

The areas where worker will use the aerial device should be examined thoroughly for possible dangers, like for example holes, bumps, debris and drop-offs. Overhead powerlines need to be avoided and monitored. It is suggested that aerial lift devices be utilized on surfaces which are level and stable. Don't work on steep slopes which exceed slope restrictions which the manufacturer specified. Even on a level slope, wheel chocks, outriggers and brakes must be set.

Employers are needed to provide maintenance mechanics and aerial lift operators with the proper guidebooks. Operators and mechanics must be trained by a certified person experienced with the relevant aerial lift model.

### Aerial Lift Safety Tips:

- o Close doors or lift platform chains prior to operating.
- o Leaning over and climbing on guardrails is prohibited. Stand on the platform or floor of the bucket.
- o Utilize the provided manufacturer's load-capacity limitations.
- o When working near traffic, use appropriate work-zone warnings, such as cones and signs.

Electrocutions are avoidable if safety procedures are followed. Stay well away from power lines - at least 10 feet. Qualified electrical workers must insulate and/or de-energize power lines. Workers should make use of 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 another wire providing a path to the ground.

Falls are avoidable if the worker remains secure inside guardrails or inside the bucket by using a full-body harness or a positioning device. If there is an anchorage in the bucket, a positioning belt with a short lanyard is adequate.

By following the manufacturer's directions, tip-overs can be avoided. Never drive the lift platform when it is elevated, unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer. Adhere to the vertical and horizontal reach limits of the device, and never go beyond the load-capacity that is specified.