



TOOLBOX TALK



AERIAL LIFTS

Aerial lifts, also known as Mobile Elevated Work Platforms (MEWP), have replaced ladders and scaffolding on many job sites. Many workers are injured or killed on aerial lifts every year.

BEFORE OPERATING AN AERIAL LIFT

- First and foremost, only authorized and competently trained personnel should operate aerial lifts. Operators should be trained on the model of the aerial lift they will be using. Per ANSI/SAIA A92.24 2018, all occupants must receive training / explanation of the basic dangers and operation of the lift.
- Inspect the job site to look for obstacles you will have to maneuver around, such as:
 - a. Soft, unstable, or uneven ground
 - b. Other equipment or workers
 - c. Overhead power lines
 - d. Pedestrians and vehicles
- Inspect your fall arrest equipment before use. Fall arrest equipment must be full body harness with appropriate sized lanyard. A body belt with appropriate sized lanyard must only be used as part of a fall restraint system.

The size of the lanyard should not allow the worker to come in contact with a lower surface.

- Open the hoods and look for 1) any indications of electrical problems such as scorches, missing guarding, exposed wires, disconnected wires, etc. & 2) any indications of an active hydraulic leak. This should **not** include touching any components – it is a visual inspection only.

OPERATING AN AERIAL LIFT

DO

- Keep your entire body inside the basket when maneuvering it near other structures.
- Avoid hazards including pinch points and trapping your body between the lift and solid objects.
- Always use 100% tie off procedures while working in the basket.* Attach lanyard to the anchor point immediately upon entering the work basket.
- Always move the basket to another position rather than over reaching the handrails.
- Keep the lift clear of electrical lines. Avoid obstructions; getting caught, hooked, or snared could cause the lift to top over as it is moved or raised.
- Always use the lift on sound, stable surfaces and assure the brakes are set before elevating.
- Assure a stable ground for outriggers when applicable.
- Before every use, check the environment, the full apparatus, and the control functions (including the ground controls) for proper condition.
- Assure the lift wheels are chocked when on an incline.



- Always follow manufacturer's restrictions and limits. This is especially important regarding load limits, incline limits, and wind speeds.

DON'T

- Do not stand on handrail or toe boards; keep feet on the deck.
- Do not touch hydraulic hoses. The fluid is highly toxic, and the system is highly pressurized. Touching the hose can trigger a burst in a weak spot, and the pressure can deliver the hydraulic fluid into the bloodstream which can result in amputation or fatality.
- Do not put the wrong kind of petroleum fuel into the machine: D is for diesel.
- Do not overload the deck or the extension.

WIND RESTRICTIONS

While suspended scaffolding is typically safe to use in wind gust speeds up to 25 MPH, follow the specific limit designated by the MEWP manufacturer.

- Do not move the deck with hands, arms, feet, or legs outside of the rails or near large structures.
- Do not exceed the lift load rating by pulling up grout lines, concrete pump lines or other heavy weighted lines.
- Do not work directly under the basket or close to the equipment – it could move at any time.
- Do not move the lift while it is in an extended position (unless designed to do so by the manufacturer and completely safe to perform the maneuver).
- Do not work with any part of the apparatus closer than 10 feet to any power lines.
- Do not put a lateral load on the lift.
- Do not use a ladder or step stool to extend the reach of the basket.
- Do not attach the lanyard to a non-anchor point (guard rail, etc.)
- Do not enter the platform without tying off.*
- Do not operate any aerial lift if any of these components are defective until it is repaired by a qualified person. Remove defective aerial lifts from service (tag out) until repairs are made.

**In scenarios where tie off is not absolutely mandatory, like most scissor lift work, the competent person should determine if tie off is needed.*

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Only authorized and competently trained personnel should operate aerial lifts?
 - a) True**
 - b) False
2. The following inspections should be performed daily: site, equipment, and personal protection equipment (PPE)?
 - a) True**
 - b) False
3. Which of the following affect the rated load?
 - a) Wind speed
 - b) Attachments added to the basket
 - c) Getting basket caught on obstruction
 - d) All of the above**
4. You can work closer than 10 feet to power lines?
 - a) True
 - b) False**



Aerial Lift Hazard Recognition Simulator



OSHA Standard
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Aerial Lifts Standard

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