

# HAZARD ALERT



# AERIAL LIFTS



## If used right...

An aerial lift can prevent falls and reduce the risks for back, neck and shoulder injuries caused by working at or above shoulder level by positioning you where you need to work.



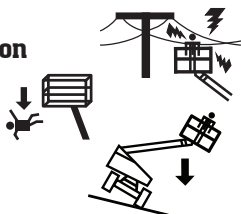
A scissor lift (left), a cherry picker (middle), and a bucket truck (right).

But there are different types of aerial lifts including scissor lifts, bucket trucks, and cherry pickers. The down lever on one can be the up lever on another model.

## If not used right, the results can be deadly.

### Major causes of deaths are...

- **Electrocution**
- **Falls**
- **Tipovers**



**Construction workers die each year while using aerial lifts.**

**If you think you are in danger:**

Contact your supervisor.  
Contact your union.

Call OSHA  
**1-800-321-OSHA**

### To learn more:

- ▶ Visit [www.StopConstructionFalls.org](http://www.StopConstructionFalls.org)
- ▶ Download the NIOSH Aerial Lift Hazard Recognition Simulator  
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/falls/aeriallift.html>



To receive copies of this Hazard Alert and cards on other topics:

call **301-578-8500** or visit **www.cpwr.com**

## Before you use the lift ...

### 1 Get training

Your employer must make sure every authorized lift operator is trained by a qualified person\* experienced with the model of aerial lift being used. Once trained, follow manufacturer instructions.

*\*A qualified person is someone who by knowledge, training and experience has successfully demonstrated their ability to resolve problems relating to the project. (Source: OSHA)*

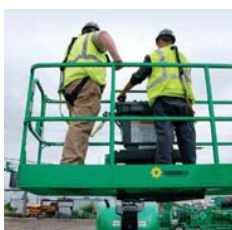


PHOTO COURTESY OF SUNBELT RENTALS

### 2 Wear a full body harness

If your lift is struck by another vehicle, you can be thrown from the lift. Using proper fall protection will keep you from a serious or fatal fall. You must use a lanyard attached to an engineered anchor in the basket or on the boom. Do not attach it to the guardrail.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIEWIT POWER CONSTRUCTORS

### 3 Check for overhead power lines

Do a pre-job walk-through to look for power lines. Ask your supervisor if the electrical wires or power lines have been de-energized. Unless you are a qualified electrical worker, stay a **minimum of 10 ft away from all power lines.\***

*\* OSHA FactSheet - Aerial Lifts  
<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/aerial-lifts-factsheet.html>*



## Before operating an aerial lift...

- Check operating and emergency controls.
- Make sure the base controls are working so that someone on the ground can lower the lift if you are unable to work the controls.
- Look for potential hazards such as potholes, bumps, or debris.
- Set out riggers, brakes, and wheel chocks—even if on a level surface.

## While operating an aerial lift...

- **Always** wear full fall protection.
- **Always** close lift-platform chains or doors, and check guardrails.
- **Do not** climb on or lean over guardrails.
- **Do not** exceed load limits.