

## Kitchener Aerial Lift Safety Training

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

To be able to operate an aerial lift safely, carry out an inspection on the following items before utilizing the device: operating and emergency controls, safety devices (such as, guardrails and outriggers), personal fall protection gear, and wheels and tires. Look for possible leaks in the air, hydraulic fluid and fuel-system. Inspect the device for missing or loose components.

The location where the device would be used should be carefully inspected for potential hazards, like for instance holes, bumps, drop-offs and debris. Overhead power lines should be closely monitored or avoided. It is recommended that aerial lift devices be used on surfaces which are stable and level. Never work on steep slopes that exceed slope limitations which the manufacturer specified. Even on a slope which is level, wheel chocks, outriggers and brakes must be set.

Employers are needed to provide maintenance mechanics and aerial lift operators with the right instruction manuals. Operators and mechanics have to be trained by a qualified individual experienced with the relevant aerial lift model.

### Aerial Lift Safety Tips:

- o Close lift platform chains or doors 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 restrictions.
- o When working near traffic, make use of appropriate work-zone warnings, like for instance cones and signs.

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

When within the bucket, workers have to prevent possible falls by securing themselves to the guardrails by using a full-body harness or a positioning device. If there is an anchorage within the bucket, a positioning belt together with a short lanyard is acceptable.

By following the manufacturer's instructions, tip-overs could be avoided. Never drive the lift platform whilst it is elevated, unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer. Follow the device's horizontal and vertical reach limitations, and never go beyond the load-capacity which is specified.