

Aerial Platforms

Accidents from the operation of aerial platforms must be a priority for everyone who uses them because of the high probability for a severe injury or fatalities. Aerial lift accidents are about 2% to 3% of all construction-related deaths, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Fatalities from accidents involving all type of lifts include:

Electrocution: 33%

Falls: 31%

Tip over or collapse: 22%

Other (struck by or against objects): 14%

Only trained employees who have been issued permits can operate aerial lifts. Training must be provided by authorized individuals who know about lift operation and limitations of the equipment. Because each lift has different specifications, operators must be trained on how to use each aerial lift that the company owns to understand its operation and limitations.



Operators must follow all of the available training material. Subjects to consider include:

- Always follow manufacturer specifications for proper set up of a lift.
- Be aware of nearby people, property, or vehicles.
- Do not use other devices like ladders in or on the platform.
- Each worksite must be evaluated for hazards before starting work. Sites and conditions change during the day and hazards must be addressed. These can include falls, tip overs, entanglement, contact with an object, electrical shock, or ejection from the platform.
- Equipment cannot be modified.
- Maintain safe clearance from electrical power lines at all times.
- Never leave the equipment unattended with the key in the switch if you are more than 25 feet away or out of sight.
- Never operate equipment while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Never overload the equipment or lift components.
- Never override safety devices or ignore warning alarms or devices.
- Never work if the lift is not working properly, parts are damaged, or signage is missing.
- Operators must be familiar with the manufacturers manual and follow all requirements for operating a lift.
- Operators must follow the manufacturers manual for daily inspections that can include controls, safety devices, hoses, fluid levels, horn, gauges, and wheels.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment at all times. This can include hard hats, visibility vest, or fall arrest equipment.