

# TOOL BOX TALKS

## Using Aerial Lifts Safely

### Slip, Trip and Fall Prevention



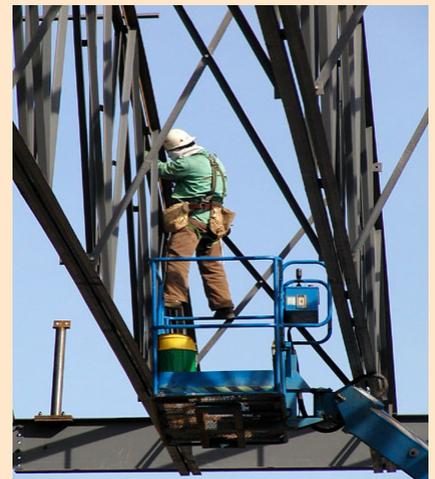
Aerial lifts are an efficient and safe tool for many situations. When used properly, they are a safer method than ladders or scaffolding. Major causes of injuries and deaths involving aerial lifts are falls, electrocutions, collapses and tip overs. All aerial lift operators must be trained and authorized before use. Review these safety tips with your employees.

#### Tool Box Tips

1. Only approved operators can use aerial lift equipment.
2. Test the controls and inspect the aerial lift before use each day.
3. Never override hydraulic, mechanical or electrical safety devices.
4. Maintain and operate aerial lifts according to the manufacturer's instructions.
5. Never use planks, boxes or other items inside the basket to extend your reach.
6. Make sure all wheels of an elevated lift are on a solid base.
7. Do not exceed the load limits of the equipment.
8. Allow for the combined weight of the employee(s), tools and materials.
9. De-energize and lockout aerial lifts before performing any maintenance or repairs.
10. Maintain a minimum clearance of at least 10 feet away from the nearest overhead line.
11. Always treat overhead lines as energized, even if they are down or appear to be insulated.
12. Establish and clearly mark a danger zone around the aerial lift support vehicle.
13. Never move the equipment with employees in the elevated platform unless the equipment has been specifically designed for this type of operation.
14. Do not position yourself between overhead hazards, such as joists and beams and the rails of the basket.
15. Do not belt off to an adjacent pole, structure or equipment while working from an aerial lift.
16. Use a body harness with a lanyard attached to the boom or basket to prevent an employee from being ejected or pulled from the basket.



*Unsafe: Always wear your fall protection when working from aerial lifts.*



*Unsafe: Never stand on the guardrails. Keep your feet on the floor.*

*These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional.*

#### For more information:



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