

Safety Matters

Provided by: Kentucky AGC Self-Insurers' Fund

Staying Safe on Aerial Lifts

Working on aerial lifts presents a few very serious dangers. To protect yourself from injury or even death, consider the following guidelines.

- Never attempt to operate an aerial lift until you have been properly trained.
- Maintain and operate the lift according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Before you use the lift each day, test the controls and thoroughly inspect it for defects.
- Never override hydraulic, mechanical or electrical safety devices.
- Stand firmly on the basket floor – never sit or climb on the edge or rails, and never use planks, boxes or other items inside the basket to extend your reach.
- Before getting on, ensure that all wheels of an elevated lift are on a solid base.
- Never exceed equipment's load limits– be sure to consider the weight of all workers, tools and other materials.
- De-energize and lockout/tagout lifts before you perform maintenance or repairs.

Working Near Power Lines

When you are working near power lines, you are at risk of death or serious injury from electrocution. Follow these guidelines to protect yourself.

- Maintain a minimum clearance of 10 feet from the nearest overhead power line.
- Keep any object that conducts electricity at least 10 feet from overhead power lines, including wires, transformers, ducts, pipes or other equipment.
- Always treat overhead lines as if they are energized, even if they are down.
- Be aware of the line at all times.

Other Hazards

There are steps you must take to protect yourself and co-workers from struck-by, crushed-by and caught-in hazards.

- Establish and mark a danger zone around the aerial lift support vehicle.
- Never move the lift with workers in the elevated platform unless it has been specifically designed for this type of operation.
- Do not position yourself, or allow a co-worker to position himself or herself, between overhead hazards such as joints and beams and the rails of the basket. If the basket moves, the workers



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could become trapped and crushed between the rails and the overhead object. Fall Protection

Whenever you are working at a height, and especially on overhead lifts, it is essential that you use measures of fall protection.

- Do not belt off to an adjacent pole, structure or equipment while working on an aerial lift.

Use a body harness or positioning device with a lanyard attached to the boom or basket so you are not ejected or pulled from the basket.