



## Lifts & Platforms

Lifts and platforms, such as cherry pickers, bucket trucks, boom lifts, and aerial lifts, make it easier for us to reach heights. They provide stable work surfaces where ladders and scaffolding won't work.

According to OSHA, the major causes of injuries and fatalities involving aerial lifts are falls, electrocutions, collapses, and tip-overs. Protect yourself from these hazards by working safely and following this list of safe work practices when operating a lift or platform:

- Never operate an aerial lift unless you are trained and authorized to do so.
- Maintain and operate lifts or platforms according to the manufacturer's instructions and guidelines.
- Be sure you understand all machine functions, including emergency procedures, before you operate the lift.
- Conduct a pre-start inspection before you use a lift. There should be a written checklist.
- Check the warning lights and back-up alarms. Make sure the tires are inflated.
- Make sure the operator's controls are easy to reach and properly marked.
- Wear a fall arrest harness and attach it to the designated anchorage on the lift.
- Keep the chain, gate, or door closed while you're on the platform or in the basket or bucket.
- Never exceed the load limits of the machine.
- Stay at least 10 feet away from power lines.
- Watch for low clearances when operating a lift.
- Check for drop-offs, soft or uneven terrain, and other potential hazards before moving a lift.
- Maintain an exclusion zone around the lift when it is in use.
- When moving a boom lift, keep the boom in line with the direction of travel.
- Don't bypass or disable the foot switch by blocking it or shimming it.
- Don't drive the lift or platform with the boom fully extended. And don't drive the machine with the outriggers extended.
- Don't drive the equipment over uneven terrain or unstable surfaces.
- Don't stand or climb on the lift's guardrails.
- Don't climb down the lift to get to ground level when the platform is raised.
- Don't use buckets, boxes, ladders, or scaffolds on the platform or any part of the machine.
- Don't use a lift as a truck, forklift, or crane.



Aerial lifts can be much safer and more flexible than ladders and scaffolds, but they do have their limitations. The most important factor in lift safety is the operator!

### **SAFETY REMINDER**

**Note that OSHA regulates scissor lifts as mobile scaffolds (see 29 CFR 1926.450(w)), not as aerial lifts.**