

Aerial Platforms and Personnel Lift Safety



- Only authorized, properly trained, qualified persons shall use or operate this equipment.
- The operating and maintenance instruction manuals issued by the manufacturer must be followed and available on the equipment.
- Load limits of the boom and basket will not be exceeded.
 - Shock loading (sudden stops or starts) of the equipment shall be avoided.
- Aerial lifts shall not be “field modified” unless the modifications are certified by the manufacturer.
 - The insulated portion must not be altered in any manner that might reduce its insulating value.
- Prior to use, the equipment shall be given a warm up period.
 - The hydraulic system and the lift controls shall be checked and tested daily before use to positively determine that such features are in safe operable working condition.
 - Malfunctions or unsafe operational conditions will be reported.
 - Equipment, which is not in proper operational condition, will not be used.
- Lower level controls will not be operated unless permission has been obtained from the employee in the lift, except in the case of an emergency.
 - Ground controls shall be positive override.
- The truck shall not be moved unless the boom is lowered, the basket cradled and secured, and the outriggers retracted.
- Employees shall not ride in the bucket while the truck is traveling.
- When employees are in the bucket of an aerial lift, the emergency brake of the vehicle must be set.
 - Wheel chocks or outriggers shall be used to provide added protection.
 - When the vehicle is on an incline, wheel chocks shall be used regardless of whether or not outriggers are used.
 - The truck should sit approximately level when viewed from the rear.
- When outriggers are used, they must be set on a solid surface, or on pads.
- Employees shall not belt to an adjacent pole or structure.
 - When working from an aerial lift, a harness or a body belt will be worn and a lanyard attached to the boom.
 - A body belt can only be used for fall restraint, not fall arrest.
- Safety rules governing the use of personal protective equipment, and general safe practices shall also apply to work done from aerial baskets. (Exception: Performing “live-line bare-hand” work.)
- When a boom must be maneuvered on a street or highway, all of the necessary precautions shall be taken to eliminate accidents with traffic and pedestrians.
- The operator must always face in the direction in which the basket is moving and he must be able to see that the path of the boom or basket is clear when it is being moved.
- Employees shall not stand or sit on top of the edge of the basket or on ladders placed in the basket.
 - Employees’ feet shall be on the floor the entire time that he/she is in the basket.
- Employees shall not wear climbers while in the basket.
- When two workers are in the basket(s), one of them shall be designated to operate the controls.
 - One employee shall give all signals, which shall be thoroughly understood by all persons concerned.
- When two line workers are working from the basket, care shall be taken to eliminate one man contacting poles, cross-arms, or other grounded or live equipment while the second line worker is working on equipment at a different potential.

- In no case shall more than one energized conductor or phase be worked at on time.
- Clearances: The aerial lift, together with the workers in the basket, and all tools and equipment must maintain proper clearances from unprotected energized conductors.
- When using hydraulic or pneumatic tools in a bucket, the operator shall be sure that hoses or lines do not become entangled in the operational controls.
- All aerial devices shall be equipped with suitable flashing warning lights.
- All controls must have protective guards to prevent accidental operation of the controls.
- Periodic electrical tests shall be made of the boom insulation and aerial basket liners.
- Equipment or material shall not be passed between a pole or structure and an aerial lift while an employee working from the basket is within reaching distance of unprotected, energized conductors or equipment.
- When used near energized conductors or equipment, vehicles shall be properly grounded or barricaded.
- Ground crews must not touch the vehicle until it is safely clear of energized conductors.