

## Aerial Lifts

Aerial lift trucks might be utilized to accomplish certain unique tasks performed in hard to reach aerial places. Many of the duties associated with this style of jack include performing daily upkeep on buildings with lofty ceilings, repairing telephone and utility cables, lifting heavy shelving units, and pruning tree branches. A ladder might also be utilized for some of the aforementioned jobs, although aerial lifts provide more security and strength when properly used.

There are a few different versions of aerial lift trucks accessible, each being able to perform moderately unique tasks. Painters will often use a scissor lift platform, which can be used to reach the 2nd story of buildings. The scissor aerial platform lifts use criss-cross braces to stretch out and enlarge upwards. There is a table attached to the top of the braces that rises simultaneously as the criss-cross braces elevate.

Cherry pickers and bucket lift trucks are another type of the aerial hoist. Commonly, they possess a bucket at the end of an extended arm and as the arm unfolds, the attached bucket platform rises. Forklifts utilize a pronged arm that rises upwards as the handle is moved. Boom hoists have a hydraulic arm which extends outward and raises the platform. Every one of these aerial lift trucks have need of special training to operate.

Training programs presented through Occupational Safety & Health Association, acknowledged also as OSHA, deal with safety methods, machine operation, maintenance and inspection and machine weight capacities. Successful completion of these education courses earns a special certified certificate. Only properly qualified individuals who have OSHA operating licenses should drive aerial lifts. The Occupational Safety & Health Organization has formed rules to maintain safety and prevent injury while using aerial lifts. Common sense rules such as not using this machine to give rides and ensuring all tires on aerial lifts are braced in order to prevent machine tipping are noted within the rules.

Sadly, data illustrate that more than 20 operators die each year while operating aerial lifts and 8% of those are commercial painters. The majority of these mishaps are due to improper tire bracing and the lift falling over; for that reason several of these deaths had been preventable. Operators should ensure that all wheels are locked and braces as a critical security precaution to stop the instrument from toppling over.

Other suggestions involve marking the surrounding area of the device in an obvious way to protect passers-by and to ensure they do not come too close to the operating machine. It is vital to ensure that there are also 10 feet of clearance among any utility cables and the aerial lift. Operators of this apparatus are also highly recommended to always have on the appropriate security harness when up in the air.