

Aerial Lift Safety

Aerial lifts are vehicle-mounted devices that allow workers to work above the ground. More than two dozen construction workers die each year using aerial lifts.

Types of lifts

- Telescopic boom platforms
- Articulating boom platforms
- Vertical towers
- Aerial ladders
- A combination of any of the above

Safety precautions while using lifts

Aerial equipment may be powered or operated manually and are deemed aerial lifts even if they are not capable of rotating about a substantially vertical axis. Below are safety measures that should be followed when using aerial lifts.

- If working near traffic, set up work zone warnings using cones and signs.
- Lift controls should be tested everyday to make sure that they are in proper working order.
- Only authorized individuals should operate the lift.
- Workers should not belt off to an adjacent pole, structure or equipment while working from an aerial lift.
- Employees should always stand firm on the floor of the basket. They should never sit or climb on the edge, or use planks, ladders or other devices for a work position.
- A body belt should be worn and a lanyard attached to the boom or basket when working from an aerial lift.
- Boom and basket load limits that are specified by the manufacturer should be followed.
- The brakes must be set, and when outriggers are used, they should be positioned on pads or a solid surface. Wheel chocks should be installed before using an aerial lift on an incline.
- An aerial lift truck should not be moved when the boom is elevated in a working position with men in the basket, except for equipment that is specifically designed for this type of operation.
- Articulating boom and telescopic boom platforms, primarily designed as personnel carriers, should have both platform (upper) and lower controls.
- The upper controls should be within easy reach of the operator. Lower controls should be able to override upper controls.
- Controls should be plainly marked with their function.
- Lower level controls should not be operated unless an employee in the lift has given permission, or in the case of emergency.
- The insulated portion of an aerial lift should not be altered in any manner that might reduce its insulating value.
- Before moving an aerial lift for travel, the boom(s) should be minimized and inspected to make sure it is properly cradled. Outriggers should be in the stowed position.

For more information and additional risk management and prevention tools, visit: fwcruminsurance.com