



# SAFETY NEWS

## This Month in Safety....

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# Electrical Safety

Flipping a light switch. Plugging in a coffeemaker. Charging a laptop computer. These are second nature for most of us. Electricity makes our lives easier. However, we need to be cautious and keep safety in mind.



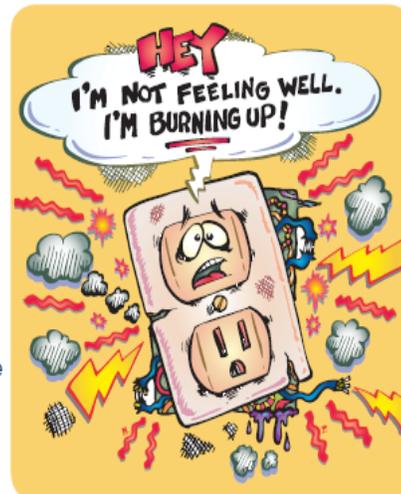
## SAFETY TIPS

- » Have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician.
- » When you are buying or remodeling a home, have it inspected by a qualified inspector.
- » Only use one heat-producing appliance (such as a coffee maker, toaster, space heater, etc.) plugged into a receptacle outlet at a time.
- » Major appliances (refrigerators, dryers, washers, stoves, air conditioners, etc.) should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Extension cords and plug strips should not be used.
- » Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) shut off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs. Consider having them installed in your home. Use a qualified electrician.
- » Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to reduce the risk of shock. GFCIs shut off an electrical circuit when it becomes a shock hazard. They should be installed inside the home in bathrooms, kitchens, garages and basements. All outdoor receptacles should be GFCI protected.
- » Test AFCIs and GFCIs once a month to make sure they are working properly.
- » Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets. Extension cords are intended for temporary use. Have a qualified electrician add more receptacle outlets so you don't have to use extension cords.
- » Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture. There should be a sticker that indicates the maximum wattage light bulb to use.

## IMPORTANT REMINDER

Call a qualified electrician or your landlord if you have:

- Frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers
- A tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance
- Discolored or warm wall outlets
- A burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance
- Flickering or dimming lights
- Sparks from an outlet



Name of Organization Goes Here

Contact Information Goes Here



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

# OSHA'S Aerial Lifts Fact-Sheet

An aerial lift is any vehicle-mounted device used to elevate personnel, including:

- Extendable boom platforms,
- Aerial ladders,
- Articulating (jointed) boom platforms,
- Vertical towers, and
- Any combination of the above.

Aerial lifts have replaced ladders and scaffolding on many job sites due to their mobility and flexibility. They may be made of metal, fiberglass reinforced plastic, or other materials. They may be powered or manually operated, and are considered to be aerial lifts whether or not they can rotate around a primarily vertical axis.

Many workers are injured or killed on aerial lifts each year.

OSHA provides the following information to help employers and workers recognize and avoid safety hazards they may encounter when they use aerial lifts.

## Hazards Associated with Aerial Lifts

### The following hazards, among others, can lead to personal injury or death: Fall from elevated level,

- Objects falling from lifts,
- Tip-overs,
- Ejections from the lift platform,
- Structural failures (collapses),
- Electric shock (electrocutions),
- Entanglement hazards,
- Contact with objects, and
- Contact with ceilings and other overhead objects.

## Training

Only trained and authorized persons are allowed to operate an aerial lift. Training should include:

- Explanations of electrical, fall, and falling object hazards;
- Procedures for dealing with hazards;
- Recognizing and avoiding unsafe conditions in the work setting;
- Instructions for correct operation of the lift (including maximum intended load and load capacity);
- Demonstrations of the skills and knowledge needed to operate an aerial lift before operating it on the job;
- When and how to perform inspections; and
- Manufacturer's requirements.

## Retraining

Workers should be retrained if any of the following conditions occur:

- An accident occurs during aerial lift use,
- Workplace hazards involving an aerial lift are discovered, or
- A different type of aerial lift is used.

Employers are also required to retrain workers who they observe operating an aerial lift improperly.

## What to Do Before Operating an Aerial Lift

### Pre-start Inspection

Prior to each work shift, conduct a pre-start inspection to verify that the equipment and all its components are in safe operating condition. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations and include a check of:

#### Vehicle components

- Proper fluid levels (oil, hydraulic, fuel and coolant);
- Leaks of fluids;
- Wheels and tires;
- Battery and charger;
- Lower-level controls;
- Horn, gauges, lights and backup alarms;
- Steering and brakes.

#### Lift components

- Operating and emergency controls;
- Personal protective devices;
- Hydraulic, air, pneumatic, fuel and electrical systems;
- Fiberglass and other insulating components;
- Missing or unreadable placards, warnings, or operational, instructional and control markings;
- Mechanical fasteners and locking pins;
- Cable and wiring harnesses;
- Outriggers, stabilizers and other structures; Loose or missing parts;
- Guardrail systems.

Do not operate any aerial lift if any of these components are defective until it is repaired by a qualified person. Remove defective aerial lifts from service (tag out) until repairs are made. **Work Zone Inspections**

Employers must assure that work zones are inspected for hazards and take corrective actions to eliminate such hazards before and during operation of an aerial lift. Items to look for include:

- Drop-offs, holes, or unstable surfaces such as loose dirt;
- Inadequate ceiling heights;
- Slopes, ditches, or bumps;
- Debris and floor obstructions;
- Overhead electric power lines and communication cables;
- Other overhead obstructions;
- Other hazardous locations and atmospheres;
- High wind and other severe weather conditions, such as ice; and
- The presence of others in close proximity to the work.

## What to Do While Operating an Aerial Lift

### Fall Protection:

- Ensure that access gates or openings are closed.
- Stand firmly on the floor of the bucket or lift platform.
- Do not climb on or lean over guardrails or handrails.
- Do not use planks, ladders, or other devices as a working position.
- Use a body harness or a restraining belt with a lanyard attached to the boom or bucket.
- Do not belt-off to adjacent structures or poles while in the bucket.

#### **Operation/Traveling/Loading:**

- Do not exceed the load-capacity limits. Take the combined weight of the worker(s), tools and materials into account when calculating the load.
- Do not use the aerial lift as a crane.
- Do not carry objects larger than the platform.
- Do not drive with the lift platform raised (unless the manufacturer's instructions allow this).
- Do not operate lower level controls unless permission is obtained from the worker(s) in the lift (except in emergencies).
- Do not exceed vertical or horizontal reach limits.
- Do not operate an aerial lift in high winds above those recommended by the manufacturer.
- Do not override hydraulic, mechanical, or electrical safety devices.

#### **Overhead Protection:**

- Be aware of overhead clearance and overhead objects, including ceilings.
- Do not position aerial lifts between overhead hazards if possible.
- Treat all overhead power lines and communication cables as energized, and stay at least 10 feet (3 meters) away.
- Ensure that the power utility or power line workers de-energize power lines in the vicinity of the work.

#### **Stability in the Work Zone:**

- Set outriggers on pads or on a level, solid surface.
- Set brakes when outriggers are used.
- Use wheel chocks on sloped surfaces when it is safe to do so.
- Set up work zone warnings, such as cones and signs, when necessary to warn others.

Insulated aerial lifts offer protection from electric shock and electrocution by isolating you from electrical ground. However, an insulated aerial lift does not protect you if there is another path to ground (for instance, if you touch another wire). To maintain the effectiveness of the insulating device, do not drill holes in the bucket.

## **Standards that Apply**

#### **OSHA Standards:**

29 CFR 1910.67, 29 CFR 1910.269(p), 29 CFR 1926.21, 29 CFR 1926.453, 29 CFR 1926.502.

#### **American National Standards Institutes standards:**

ANSI/SIA A92.2-1969, ANSI/SIA A92.3, ANSI/SIA A92.5, ANSI/SIA A92.6.

## **Additional Information**

OSHA has a variety of publications, standards, technical assistance and compliance tools to help you. OSHA also offers extensive assistance through workplace consultations, grants, strategic partnerships, state plans, training and education. OSHA's Safety and Health Program Management

Guidelines (54 Federal Register 3904-3916, January 26, 1989) detail elements critical to the development of a successful safety and health program.

To file a complaint by phone, report an emergency, or get OSHA advice, assistance, or products, contact your nearest OSHA office or call us toll-free at 1-800-321-OSHA (6742).

**This is one in a series of informational fact sheets highlighting OSHA programs, policies or standards. It does not impose any new compliance requirements. For a comprehensive list of compliance requirements of OSHA standards or regulations, refer to Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This information will be made available to sensory-impaired individuals upon request. The voice phone is (202) 693-1999; the teletypewriter (TTY) number is (877) 889-5627.**

## **Silica**

With OSHA's Silica update coming up, many of you have enforced the use of dust masks while cutting concrete, block, etc. Lets make our communication to use water and then strongly recommend all to get a respirator per their company policies.



# Knotty Board



Below are contractors where violations have been issued, or where major instances noted in ICPM by the safety director and those onsite. These are not all that have been issued, but a representative number. This is just to share experiences onsite.

I know it is tough to issue a violation to a contractor that you have to work with on a daily basis, but if it helps save a persons life, it is a good thing. Also those of you who might not like confrontation, tell the contractor that OSHA’s fines are averaging \$3500 on Signature projects. The \$250 violation that we may offer is easier than theirs. Those of you who don’t like the long walk to get the forms, because the job is so big, they can be issued at any time.

Allside/URD (Sider in Oregon)	Handrails are not being reinstalled, exposing others to a fall greater than 6 feet.
Gaines (Site work Durham)	A Hydraulic cylinder had to be repaired on the top of the boom of the excavator. A second excavator was brought over to access the line. One employee climbed into the bucket of the second excavator, was raised up to the broken hydraulic line being repaired, while the employee had a synthetic sling wrapped around their waste.
Triumph/M AND N (Framing KC)	Handrails were not installed at the proper height. Employees on the roof framing the buiding without fall protection.
Triumph (siding NC)	Employees in an Aerial lift were not properly tied off and not tied off.
Triumph (roofing in Texas)	Employees on the roof without fall protection.
Fineline (Framer in NC)	Employees installing walls were not properly protected while working on the first floor.
BDI (drywall in NC)	Employees on the porch without proper fall protection. (This crew is doing an outstanding job with safety compared to those in the past.)
Buffalo (Framing in TX)	Employees walking the top plate of a wall without fall protection and not following their fall protection plan.
Pricon (Drywall TX)	No fall protection while on the porch or in the trusses exposed to a fall greater than 6 feet.
Jimmy Z’s (masonry Chicago, IL)	Employees not protected on scaffold by fall protection.
CCS (Framer Greenfield, IN)	Employees working on the second floor without fall protection and without the proper anchorage.
Unlimited Care (Mason Greenfield)	Scaffolding not set up per the OSHA rule. Cross braces missing on the first buck, walk boards split, employees accessing the scaffold via climbing the frame that is missing the pins for the cross bracing. Accessing via the porches leaving the handrail down exposing one to a fall greater than 6 feet not on a scaffold.
	Personal Protective Equipment has been a trend the past couple of weeks. Employees are onsite in tennis shoes or No hard hats have been the greatest instance.
CCS	No fall protection when installing trusses and not installing handrails at the stairs.

As a reminder, please continue to issue safety violations for safety infractions on the project. Many of you are enforcing the same safety issues on the job and get tired of repeatedly tell contractors the same thing over and over again. Safety violations will limit the need to repeat this communication.

I also know it is hard to issue violations as you have many things to cover on a jobsite, but our Standard Operating Procedures do not state a violation has to be issued immediately. If you need to wait until the next day, that is fine. Please issue them.

# The Back Page

What's wrong with these pictures?



For a \$20 gift card, tell me the number of violations you see in this picture. All correct responses will be placed in a hat and one lucky winner will receive a \$20 gift card. This should be submitted by close of business Friday 10-7-16.

**For more information regarding safety use these references:**

**-[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)**

**-OSHA Standards For The Construction Industry 29 CFR Part 1926**



