

SAFETY MEETING TOPIC

This form shall be completed and kept on file

Job Name _____ Location _____ Job No. _____
Meeting Leader _____ Title _____
Date Held _____ Place _____ Time _____
Subject of Meeting _____ **AERIAL LIFTS** _____

Aerial lifts are often used in the construction industry, and like scaffolds, they offer the three-fold hazards of falls, falling objects and electrocution.

- Aerial lifts include extensible boom platforms, aerial ladders, articulating boom platforms, vertical towers, and self-propelled elevating work platforms among others. Each has different operating abilities, and therefore varying safety concerns. Only authorized personnel are allowed to use this equipment. Before operating any aerial lift, be sure you have the proper training and instruction for that particular type of lift.
- Aerial equipment may be made from metal, wood or fiberglass reinforced plastic and may be powered or manually operated. OSHA requirements for aerial lifts can be found in 1926.453.
- Because a great deal of the work you do is at some height above ground, you must always take precautions to prevent falls. This is just as true when using aerial lifts. For that reason, you must always be tied off when using any aerial lift with an articulating boom or basket. A body harness and lanyard – attached to appropriate points in the boom or basket – are standard equipment. Never belt off to an adjacent pole, structure or equipment while working in the lift.
- Thorough inspections and equipment testing are also a daily part of aerial lift use. A failure of the lifting mechanism can send the basket crashing to the ground, or cause the boom to swing out of control. Always be sure that the controls are working properly, the hydraulic system is in good operating condition and that any required fall protection device is installed. Any signs of stress or excessive wear on critical components of the lift should alert you to the possibility of equipment failure. When problems are discovered, do not use the equipment until it has been repaired and tested.
- Never exceed the load limit of the lift. Remember that your weight as well as the weight of any materials and equipment must be taken into account. With some types of lifts, such as extensible and articulating boom platforms, outriggers may be needed for stability. Whenever using outriggers be sure they are positioned on pads or some other solid surface. Brakes should also be set, and wheels chocks are required on inclines, if they can be safely installed.
- If you are using an aerial lift truck, it cannot be moved when the boom is elevated in a working position with men in the basket. When using any type of self-propelled lift, be sure that the conditions meet the minimal operating requirements for level, clear surfaces. Riding in a lift is only allowed following the manufacturer's recommendations. Never try to propel a lift that was not specifically designed for that purpose. For lifts which have upper and lower controls, the lower controls cannot be operated while a worker is in the basket, unless he has given his permission to do so, except in an emergency.
- Whenever you are working in a lift, be aware of the location of electric lines. Obey minimum approach distance identified by OSHA. If work must be performed inside the minimum approach distances, notify the power company to have the lines deenergized,

moved or covered. Some aerial lifts are insulated against electric contact. Never alter the insulating material as that might reduce its protective capabilities.

Always wear a hard hat when working in an aerial lift or when working on the ground beneath the lift. If you are working from a lift, be careful to prevent tools and materials from falling to the ground below.