

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 WORK PLATFORMS

Man lifts and scissors lifts are two pieces of equipment that many can't imagine working without. This equipment, if used correctly, provides quick and safe access to work areas that at one time could be reached from scaffolding or a crane's manbasket. These lifts, collectively called Aerial Work Platforms, are important tools. But as with any tool, there are right and wrong ways to use them safely.

The most important tip to remember before operating any aerial lift platform is always read and follow the manufacturer's safety and operation manual! This information must be kept on the rig, and can usually be found in a PVC tube that is tied to the machine's frame or rails.

SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR BOTH MANLIFTS AND SCISSOR LIFTS:

- Only trained and authorized people should operate the lift. A qualified instructor must make sure that every operator reads and/or understands the equipment's safety and operating instructions. This includes all of the warning decals and labels mounted on the machine.
- Always check for overhead obstructions before driving or elevating the platform.
- Refuel tanks only when the unit is turned off. If battery powered, the batteries should be charged only in a well ventilated area, away from any open flames.
- Prior to each shift a safety inspection should be completed by the operator; this includes both a visual inspection and a function test. If a problem is found, get the lift repaired.
- Elevate the platform only when it is on a firm, level surface. Although many lifts look like a rough terrain piece of equipment, they are not. Their large tires do allow the equipment to access somewhat difficult areas, but once in position, they are designed to be out of level only 5° while in operation. This amounts to 10 inches in a 10 foot wheel span. In addition, the lift must have a tilt alarm that activates when the machine is more than 5° out of level.

SCISSOR LIFTS ARE EFFICIENT ONE-DIRECTION LIFTS

They provide a solid surface to work from, but always remember:

- Guardrails, midrails and toeboards must be in place. The toeboard can be omitted at the door.
- The platform must be equipped with a mechanical parking brake that will hold the unit securely on any slope it is capable of climbing. The brake should be tested periodically.
- Never use the lift's rails, planks across the rails, or a ladder, to gain additional height.