

## Aerial Lifts

Aerial lifts can be utilized to accomplish numerous unique duties performed in hard to reach aerial spaces. A few of the duties associated with this kind of lift include performing regular preservation on buildings with high ceilings, repairing phone and utility cables, lifting heavy shelving units, and trimming tree branches. A ladder could also be utilized for many of the aforementioned tasks, although aerial platform lifts provide more safety and strength when correctly used.

There are a few different models of aerial hoists available, each being able to perform slightly different tasks. Painters will sometimes use a scissor lift platform, which can be utilized to reach the 2nd story of buildings. The scissor aerial hoists use criss-cross braces to stretch and extend upwards. There is a platform attached to the top of the braces that rises simultaneously as the criss-cross braces elevate.

Cherry pickers and bucket lift trucks are another version of the aerial hoist. Normally, they contain a bucket at the end of an elongated arm and as the arm unfolds, the attached bucket platform rises. Forklifts utilize a pronged arm that rises upwards as the lever is moved. Boom lift trucks have a hydraulic arm which extends outward and lifts the platform. All of these aerial platform lifts require special training to operate.

Through the Occupational Safety & Health Association, also labeled OSHA, education courses are offered to help ensure the employees satisfy occupational standards for safety, system operation, inspection and repair and machine cargo capacities. Workforce receive certification upon completion of the classes and only OSHA certified workers should run aerial platform lifts. The Occupational Safety & Health Organization has developed guidelines to uphold safety and prevent injury while using aerial lift trucks. Common sense rules such as not using this apparatus to give rides and ensuring all tires on aerial lift trucks are braced in order to prevent machine tipping are noted within the guidelines.

Sadly, data reveal that greater than 20 aerial hoist operators pass away each year when operating and just about ten percent of those are commercial painters. The bulk of these incidents were brought on by improper tie bracing, hence a few of these could have been prevented. Operators should make certain that all wheels are locked and braces as a critical security precaution to prevent the machine from toppling over.

Marking the neighbouring area with noticeable markers have to be used to safeguard would-be passers-by so they do not come near the lift. What's more, markings must be placed at about 10 feet of clearance between any electrical lines and the aerial lift. Hoist operators must at all times be appropriately harnessed to the lift while up in the air.