

Aerial Lifts

Aerial hoists can accommodate many odd jobs involving high and hard reaching places. Normally utilized to complete daily maintenance in structures with tall ceilings, prune tree branches, elevate heavy shelving units or fix phone cables. A ladder might also be utilized for many of the aforementioned jobs, although aerial platform lifts provide more safety and stability when correctly used.

There are several distinctive types of aerial hoists accessible, each being able to perform slightly unique jobs. Painters will sometimes use a scissor lift platform, which can be utilized to get in touch with the 2nd story of buildings. The scissor aerial jacks use criss-cross braces to stretch out and extend upwards. There is a table attached to the top of the braces that rises simultaneously as the criss-cross braces elevate.

Cherry pickers and bucket lift trucks are another type of the aerial lift. Typically, they possess a bucket at the end of an elongated arm and as the arm unfolds, the attached bucket lift rises. Forklifts use a pronged arm that rises upwards as the lever is moved. Boom hoists have a hydraulic arm which extends outward and hoists 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 on hand to help make certain the employees meet occupational standards for safety, system operation, inspection and maintenance and machine cargo capacities. Workforce receive certification upon completion of the lessons and only OSHA certified employees should operate aerial lift trucks. The Occupational Safety & Health Organization has formed guidelines to uphold safety and prevent injury while using aerial platform lifts. Common sense rules such as not using this piece of equipment to give rides and making sure all tires on aerial lifts are braced in order to prevent machine tipping are observed within the rules.

Sadly, data expose that more than 20 aerial lift operators die each year when operating and just about ten percent of those are commercial painters. The majority of these accidents were caused by inadequate tie bracing, hence many of these could have been prevented. Operators should make sure that all wheels are locked and braces as a critical safety precaution to prevent the machine from toppling over.

Other guidelines include marking the surrounding area of the machine in a visible way to protect passers-by and to ensure they do not approach too close to the operating machine. It is vital to ensure that there are also 10 feet of clearance between any utility lines and the aerial hoist. Operators of this apparatus are also highly recommended to always wear the proper security harness when up in the air.