



# MIOSHA Fact Sheet

## Consultation Education & Training Division

# Using Aerial Lifts

**The major causes of injuries and fatalities involving aerial lifts are falls, electrocutions, and collapses or tip-overs. Aerial devices include boom-supported aerial platforms, such as cherry pickers or bucket trucks, aerial ladders and vertical towers, scissor lift and mobile scaffolds. Safe work practices for aerial lifts include:**

- Ensure that workers who operate aerial lifts are properly trained and tested in the safe use of the equipment and issued a permit. Perform the required inspection of the equipment prior to use and repair any damage or defects affecting the safe operation before use. Conduct a job site or workplace survey of the area it will be operated in.
- Maintain and operate aerial lift according to the manufacturer's instructions and keep a copy with the lift. Always stand firmly on the basket floor. Do not sit or climb on the edge or rails of the basket. Never use planks, boxes or other items inside the basket to extend your reach.
- Ensure that all wheels of an elevated lift are on a solid base. Use outriggers, if provided. Set the brakes and use wheel chocks when on an incline. Do not exceed the load limits of the equipment. Allow for the combined weight of the worker(s), tools and materials.
- De-energize and lockout/tagout aerial lifts before performing any maintenance or repairs.

### **Working near Power Lines**

Maintain a minimum clearance of at least 10 feet away from the nearest overhead line, this includes any conductive objects such as tools or other equipment. Always treat overhead lines as energized, even if they are down or appear to be insulated. Only qualified power line and communications workers and qualified line-clearance tree trimmers may work closer than 10 feet. Never lose awareness of the overhead hazard.

### **Traffic, or Caught-in Hazards**

Establish and clearly mark a danger zone around the aerial lift. When subject to traffic follow the requirements in Part 6 of the Michigan Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices and Construction Safety Part 22 Signals, Signs, Tags and Barricades. Never move the equipment with workers in the elevated platform unless the equipment has been specifically designed for that operation. When positioning, be aware of fixed overhead hazards, such as structural members to prevent being caught between them and the aerial lift.

### **Fall Protection**

Provide the proper type of fall protection based on the type of aerial lift being used and the working conditions. Do not allow workers to belt off to an adjacent pole, structure or equipment while working from an aerial lift.

LARA is an equal opportunity employer/program.

Auxiliary aids, services and other reasonable accommodations are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.



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