

## Aerial Lifts

Aerial lifts can accommodate various duties involving high and tough reaching spaces. Usually used to perform routine upkeep in buildings with lofty ceilings, trim tree branches, hoist heavy shelving units or patch up phone lines. A ladder could also be utilized for some of the aforementioned projects, although aerial platform lifts provide more security and strength when correctly used.

There are a lot of models of aerial platform lifts existing on the market depending on what the task needed involves. Painters sometimes use scissor aerial hoists for instance, which are classified as mobile scaffolding, of use in painting trim and reaching the 2nd story and higher on buildings. The scissor aerial lifts 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 a different kind of the aerial lift. Commonly, they possess a bucket at the end of an elongated arm and as the arm unfolds, the attached bucket platform rises. Platform lifts utilize a pronged arm that rises upwards as the lever is moved. Boom hoists have a hydraulic arm which extends outward and elevates the platform. Every one of these aerial lifts require special training to operate.

Through the Occupational Safety & Health Association, also called OSHA, training courses are on hand to help make certain the workforce satisfy occupational standards for safety, machine operation, inspection and repair and machine load capacities. Employees receive qualifications upon completion of the course and only OSHA licensed personnel should run aerial hoists. The Occupational Safety & Health Organization has formed guidelines to maintain safety and prevent injury when using aerial lifts. Common sense rules such as not using this piece of equipment to give rides and ensuring all tires on aerial lift trucks are braced in order to prevent machine tipping are noted within the rules.

Unfortunately, figures expose that greater than 20 aerial hoist operators pass away each year when operating and nearly ten percent of those are commercial painters. The majority of these incidents were caused by inappropriate tie bracing, hence several of these could have been prevented. Operators should make sure that all wheels are locked and braces as a critical safety precaution to stop the instrument from toppling over.

Other guidelines involve marking the encircling area of the device in a visible manner to safeguard 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 amid any power cables and the aerial hoist. Operators of this apparatus are also highly recommended to always wear the proper security harness when up in the air.