

# Authorized Aerial Lift Operator

## Supervisor Training Guidelines

Aerial lifts are vehicle-mounted, boom-supported aerial platforms used to elevate personnel to access aboveground job sites. The following information must be provided to employees:

### Department Work Example(s)

- Tree Trimming
- Building ceiling, roof construction/repairs
- Other Specific Department Work Examples

### Department Equipment Examples

- Cherry pickers or bucket trucks
- Aerial ladders
- Scissor lifts
- Articulating (jointed) boom platforms
- Other Specific Department Equipment Examples



### Hazards

- Falls from elevated surface
- Objects falling from lifts
- Tip-overs
- Ejection from the lift platform
- Electrical shock (electrocution)
- Contact with objects, ceilings and other overhead objects
- Entanglement hazards
- Structural failures (collapse)
- Other Specific Department Hazards Examples

Only trained and authorized persons are allowed to operate an aerial lift. OSHA requires that a qualified person must train authorized aerial lift operators on the following required information:

- Explanations of electrical, fall, and falling hazards
- Procedures for dealing with hazards;
- Recognizing and avoiding unsafe conditions in the work setting;
- Instructions for correct operation of the lift (including maximum intended load and load capacity);
- Demonstrations of the skills and knowledge needed to operate an aerial lift before operating it on the job;
- When and how to perform inspections; and
- Manufacturer's requirements

## What to Do Before Operating an Aerial Lift

**Pre-Start Inspection:** prior to use, conduct a pre-start inspection to verify that the equipment and all its components are in safe operating condition. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations and include a check of:

### *Vehicle components*

- Proper fluid levels (oil, hydraulic, fuel and coolant);
- Leaks of fluids;
- Wheels and tires;
- Battery and charger;
- Lower-level controls;
- Horn, gauges, lights and backup alarms;
- Steering and brakes.

### *Lift components*

- Operating and emergency controls;
- Personal protective devices;
- Hydraulic, air, pneumatic, fuel and electrical systems;
- Fiberglass and other insulating components;
- Missing or unreadable placards, warnings, or operational, instructional and control markings;
- Mechanical fasteners and locking pins;
- Cable and wiring harnesses;
- Outriggers, stabilizers and other structures;
- Loose or missing parts;
- Guardrail systems.



***If any of these components are defective, aerial lifts should not be operated until repaired by a qualified person. Remove defective aerial lifts from service (tag out) until repairs are made***

## What to Do While Operating an Aerial Lift

### **Fall Protection:**

- Ensure that access gates or openings are closed.
- Stand firmly on the floor of the bucket or lift platform.
- Do not climb on or lean over guardrails or handrails.
- Do not use planks, ladders, or other devices as a working position.
- Use a body harness or a restraining belt with a lanyard attached to the boom or bucket.
- Do not belt-off to adjacent structures or poles while in the bucket.

### Operation/Traveling/Loading:

- Do not exceed the load-capacity limits. Take the combined weight of the worker(s), tools and materials into account when calculating the load.
- Do not use the aerial lift as a crane.
- Do not carry objects larger than the platform.
- Do not drive with the lift platform raised (unless the manufacturer's instructions allow this).
- Do not operate lower level controls unless permission is obtained from the worker(s) in the lift (except in emergencies).
- Do not exceed vertical or horizontal reach limits.
- Do not operate an aerial lift in high winds above those recommended by the manufacturer.
- Do not override hydraulic, mechanical, or electrical safety devices.

### Overhead Protection:

- Be aware of overhead clearance and overhead objects, including ceilings.
- Do not position aerial lifts between overhead hazards if possible.
- Treat all overhead power lines and communication cables as energized, and stay at least 10 feet (3 meters) away.
- Ensure that power utility or power line workers de-energize power lines in the vicinity of the work.

### Stability in the Work Zone:

- Set outriggers on pads or on a level, solid surface.
- Set brakes when outriggers are used.
- Use wheel chocks on sloped surfaces when it is safe to do so.
- Set up work zone warnings, such as cones and signs, when necessary to warn others

*Insulated aerial lifts offer protection from electric shock and electrocution by isolating you from electrical ground.*

*However, an insulated aerial lift does not protect you if there is another path to ground (for instance, if you touch another wire). To maintain the effectiveness of the insulating device, do not drill holes in the bucket.*

**Retraining** - workers are required to be retrained if any of the following conditions occur:

- An accident occurs during aerial lift use,
- Workplace hazards involving an aerial lift are discovered, or
- A different type of aerial lift is used
- If improper operation of an aerial lift is observed

**Accident and Injury Reporting** – all accidents and injuries must be reported on applicable Marathon County accident and/or injury reporting forms.