

TST #143-A

Aerial Work Platforms

Before an aerial work platform is to be used, it is the responsibility of workers to make sure that they have been trained on the particular model that they will be using. Therefore, whenever a manager directs an operator to operate an aerial work platform, it is imperative that the operator has received training in the proper and safe operating procedures.

Safety Equipment

The lift is equipped with safety features that must be utilized at all times. These include the rails, gate (chain or steel tubing) and personal fall protection anchorage points. These guardrails offer minimum protection as long as the operator stays within the rails. A full body harness and lanyard must be used on a boom lift.

Daily Inspections

Daily inspections should be made on the lift and the inspections should be done while the lift is positioned on a level surface.

1. Check tire pressure and look for cracks, worn spots and objects that may have punctured the tires.
2. Check the hydraulic fluid, oil, fuel quantity, coolant, battery cables and charge indicators.
3. Check the hydraulic hoses for leaks, kinks and any pinch points.
4. Make sure that the pivot pins are secured and tight.

PPE Inspection

Some jobs require a 100% tie-off while using lifts. Check harnesses, lanyards and hardware and then use the approved attachment point before moving the machine. **Do not tie-off to the rails.**

Hazards

1. Check the work area for drop-offs, debris, mechanical stub-ups, overhead hazards, floor openings, grades and uneven terrain. Stay a minimum of 10 feet away from power lines.
2. Move the machinery when the platform and the boom are lowered all the way while traveling on a grade or rough terrain.
3. If the lift has to be moved with the platform raised, make sure that the lift is on solid, level footing.
4. Weather conditions can cause unsafe conditions such as slippery surfaces. Severe wind can also tip the platform.
5. Know the limitations of the platform, such as weight capacity.

Operation

1. Any operator needs to insure that before each movement of an aerial platform, the platform is operated on a surface within the limits of the machine.
2. Outriggers, stabilizers or extendable axles are used as required by the manufacturer.
3. Guardrails are installed and access gates or openings are closed.
4. The load and its distribution on the platform and any platform extensions are within the maximum capacity for the configuration.
5. Adequate clearance from overhead obstructions is maintained.
6. Be sure to use a spotter when maneuvering the lift in tight areas or near open holes.
7. When moving the lift, maintain eye contact and use hand gestures to communicate with personnel walking nearby.

Some Do's and Don'ts

- Do keep the platform clean and organized.
- Don't use the platform as a crane and don't operate the machinery from a position on trucks or trailers.
- Don't alter the safety devices.
- Don't allow anyone to work or traverse under you.
- Don't tie-off to anything other than the platform.
- Do use a reasonable setting for controlling speed depending on work environment.
- Don't stand on the toe boards or railings.

Aerial Work Platforms Quiz

The following statements should be answered with "True" or "False." Answers below.

1. When checking for hazards, stay a minimum of 10 feet away from power lines.
2. Daily inspections should be made on the lift and should be conducted while the lift is on a level surface.
3. A full body harness and lanyard must be used on a boom lift.
4. It is acceptable to use the aerial work platform as a crane when needed.
5. Before using the aerial work platform, it is the responsibility of the worker to make sure they have been trained on the particular model they will be using.

Employee Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Answers:

1. True
2. True
3. True
4. False
5. True