

## AERIAL LIFTS

Aerial Lifts are useful pieces of equipment with specialized features, uses, and unique potential hazards. Extensible **boom lifts** are very helpful when you need to access heights without the expense of a crane or set-up required to use a scaffold. **Articulating boom-lifts** are especially useful when needing to access difficult to reach areas and interior locations with high ceilings and odd angles.



This safety topic is intended to help workers recognize the dangers of working with aerial lifts.

**OSHA Standard 1926.453(b)(2)(ii)** *Only authorized persons [designated by the employer] shall operate an aerial lift.*

In addition, **OSHA Standard 1926.453(b)(2)(iv)** *Employees shall always stand firmly on the floor of the basket, and shall not sit or climb on the edge of the basket or use planks, ladders, or other devices for a work position.*

### **Only trained and authorized operators can use aerial lifts!**

- Employees must receive training in the safe operation of the lifts so they will understand and avoid unsafe conditions that could lead to injuries.

Common hazards found with aerial lifts include:

- Electrocution from accidental contact with energized wires
- Tip-over hazards from driving on step or unstable surfaces
- Collisions or struck-against hazards
- Fall hazards from improper use of the lifts and failure to use proper fall protection



**OSHA Standard 1926.21(b)(2)** *The employer shall instruct each employee in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and the regulations applicable to his work environment to control or eliminate any hazards or other exposure to illness or injury.*

## Avoid tip-over hazards!

- Always use proper fall protection when operating an aerial lift.
- Never alter or disable warning devices or limit switches – they are there to help avoid tip-over hazards.
- Survey the area where the lift will be used before moving or driving the lift to identify and avoid potential hazards such as curbs, pot-holes, excavations, or floor-holes.



## Remember these important safety precautions when working with aerial lifts:

- Never sit or climb on the edge of the basket or use planks, ladders, or other devices on an aerial lift.
- Always use proper fall protection when operating an aerial lift.
- Always look for over head power lines and electricity lines before and during lift operation.
- Only use lifts that you are trained and authorized to use.
- Survey the area to identify and avoid potential curbs, pot-holes, excavations, or floor-holes.

