

*Program Management Office
Safety Bulletin for September 2019*

Aerial Lift Safety Tips



We have several aerial lifts (JLG, Snorkel, scissor lifts, articulating boom platforms, etc.) around job sites throughout the program.

Here are some safety tips for those working in and around this equipment.

- As with other powered vehicles, inspect the lift prior to utilizing it. Walk around and ensure there are no leaks, check to ensure all the controls are functioning correctly.
- Never walk under the boom to gain access to the platform.
- Only utilize the lift on level ground.
- Only stand on the platform floor. Never stand or sit on the railing.
- Always look in the direction the machine is moving.
- Do not rest the boom or basket on a steel structure of any kind.
- Wear safety harnesses and tie-off to the manufacture provided anchorage point within the platform at all times when you're in the basket. This includes when you are lowered and moving the equipment to another location.
- Keep your hands the external portion of the basket when raising or lowering the basket.
- Ensure that a fire extinguisher is mounted in the basket when performing activities that present a fire hazard such as welding or grinding. Ensure you have a fire watch person below.

- Except in a case of an emergency, ground controls shall not be operated on an occupied lift (lift occupant shall be in full control of the lift at all times).
- Make sure that workers who operate aerial lifts are properly trained in the safe use of the equipment.
- Maintain and operate elevating work platforms according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Never override hydraulic, mechanical, or electrical safety devices.
- Do not allow workers to position themselves between overhead hazards, such as joists and beams, and the rails of the basket. Movement of the lift could crush the worker(s).
- Maintain a minimum clearance of at least 10 feet, or 3 meters, away from the nearest energized overhead lines.
- Always treat power lines, wires and other conductors as energized, even if they are down or appear to be insulated.
- Use a body harness or restraining belt with a lanyard attached to the boom or basket to prevent the worker(s) from being ejected or pulled from the basket.
- Set the brakes and use wheel chocks when on an incline.
- Use outriggers, if provided.
- Do not exceed the load limits of the equipment. Allow for the combined weight of the worker, tools and materials.