

## Red Deer Aerial Lift Safety Training

Red Deer Aerial Lift Safety Training - Every year, there are about 26 construction deaths attributed to the use of aerial lifts. Nearly all of the craftsmen killed are laborers, electrical workers, carpenters, painters or ironworkers. The majority of the deaths are caused by electrocutions, falls and tip-overs. The greatest danger is from boom-supported lifts, like for instance bucket trucks and cherry pickers. The majority of the fatalities are related to this particular kind of lift, with the rest involving scissor lifts. Other dangers include being struck by falling things, being thrown out of a bucket, and being caught between the guardrail or lift bucket and an object, like a joist or steel beam.

To be able to operate an aerial lift safely, carry out a check on the following items before using the device: emergency and operating controls, safety devices (like for example, guardrails and outriggers), personal fall protection gear, and tires and wheels. Inspect for possible leaks in the air, fuel-system, hydraulic fluid. Inspect the device for loose or missing components.

The areas where worker would utilize the aerial device must be inspected thoroughly for possible hazards, such as bumps, holes, drop-offs and debris. Overhead powerlines need to be monitored and avoided. It is suggested that aerial lift devices be used on stable, level surfaces. Don't work on steep slopes which go beyond slope limits specified by the manufacturer. Even on a slope which is level, outriggers, brakes and wheel chocks should be set.

Employers are needed to provide aerial lift operators and maintenance mechanics with the proper manuals. Mechanics and operators should be trained by a qualified individual experienced with the applicable aerial lift model.

### Aerial Lift Safety Tips:

- o Close lift platform chains or doors prior to operating.
- o Do not lean over or climb on guardrails. Stand on the floor of the bucket or platform.
- o Stay within manufacturer's load-capacity restrictions.
- o Utilize work-zone warnings, like for instance cones and signs, when working near traffic.

Electrocutions are preventable if safety procedures are followed. Stay well away from power lines - at least 10 feet. Trained electrical workers must insulate and/or de-energize power lines. People working need to make use of personal protective tools and equipment, like for example a bucket which is insulated. Nevertheless, an insulated bucket does not protect from electrocution if, for instance, the worker touches another wire providing a path to the ground.

Falls are avoidable if the person working remains secure in guardrails or inside the bucket by using a full-body harness or a positioning device. If there is an anchorage inside the bucket, a positioning belt along with a short lanyard is acceptable.

Tip-overs are avoidable by following the manufacturer's instructions. Unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer, never drive whilst the lift platform is elevated. Follow the horizontal and vertical reach limits of the device, and never go beyond the specified load-capacity.