Ottawa Aerial Lift Safety Training

Ottawa Aerial Lift Safety Training - There are about 26 to 30 construction deaths within North America due to the use of aerial lifts. Nearly all of the individuals killed are craftsmen like electrical workers, laborers, painters, ironworkers or carpenters. Nearly all fatalities are caused by electrocutions, falls and tip-overs. The greatest danger is from boom-supported lifts, such as cherry pickers and bucket trucks. Most fatalities are connected to this type of lift, with the rest involving scissor lifts. Other risks include being thrown out of a bucket, being struck by falling things, and being caught between the lift bucket or guardrail and an object, such as a joist or steel beam.

To safely operate an aerial lift, perform a check on the following things before making use of the device: emergency and operating controls, safety devices (like for example, guardrails and outriggers), personal fall protection gear, and wheels and tires. Look for possible leaks in the air, fuel-system, hydraulic fluid. Check the device for loose or missing components.

The location where the device would be utilized should be carefully examined for possible dangers, such as holes, bumps, debris and drop-offs. Overhead power lines must be closely monitored or avoided. It is suggested that aerial lift devices be utilized on level, stable surfaces. Never work on steep slopes which exceed slope limitations which the manufacturer specified. Even on a slope that is level, outriggers, brakes and wheel chocks should be set.

Employers are needed to provide aerial lift operators and maintenance mechanics with the right manuals. Mechanics and operators must be trained by a licensed person experienced with the applicable aerial lift model.

Aerial Lift Safety Guidelines:
o Before operating, close doors and lift platform chains.
o Do not climb on or lean over guardrails. Stand on the floor of the bucket or platform.
o Stay within manufacturer's load-capacity limits.
o Use work-zone warnings, such as cones and signs, when working near traffic.

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

When in the bucket, workers should prevent possible falls by securing themselves to the guardrails by making use of a positioning device or a full-body harness. If there is an anchorage within the bucket, a positioning belt together with a short lanyard is acceptable.

By following the manufacturer's directions, tip-overs can be prevented. Never drive the lift platform whilst it is elevated, unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer. Follow the vertical and horizontal reach limits of the device, and never exceed the specified load-capacity.