

Aerial Lifts

Aerial hoists can be used to accomplish several distinctive tasks performed in hard to reach aerial spaces. Many of the tasks associated with this type of lift include performing regular repair on buildings with prominent ceilings, repairing telephone and utility cables, lifting burdensome shelving units, and trimming tree branches. A ladder might also be utilized for some of the aforementioned tasks, although aerial lifts provide more safety and strength when properly used.

There are several models of aerial lifts existing on the market depending on what the task needed involves. Painters sometimes use scissor aerial lifts for instance, which are categorized as mobile scaffolding, useful in painting trim and reaching the 2nd story and higher on buildings. The scissor aerial platform lifts use criss-cross braces to stretch and extend upwards. There is a platform attached to the top of the braces that rises simultaneously as the criss-cross braces elevate.

Cherry pickers and bucket lift trucks are a further variety of the aerial lift. Usually, they contain a bucket at the end of an extended arm and as the arm unfolds, the attached bucket lift rises. Lift trucks use a pronged arm that rises upwards as the lever is moved. Boom lift trucks have a hydraulic arm that extends outward and lifts the platform. Every one of these aerial hoists have need of special training to operate.

Through the Occupational Safety & Health Association, also labeled OSHA, training courses are on hand to help make certain the workers satisfy occupational standards for safety, machine operation, inspection and upkeep and machine load capacities. Workers receive certification upon completion of the course and only OSHA qualified workers should operate aerial platform lifts. The Occupational Safety & Health Organization has established rules to uphold safety and prevent injury when using aerial hoists. Common sense rules such as not using this piece of equipment to give rides and ensuring all tires on aerial hoists are braced in order to prevent machine tipping are noted within the rules.

Unfortunately, statistics reveal that greater than 20 aerial lift operators pass away each year when operating and nearly ten percent of those are commercial painters. The majority of these accidents were brought on by inadequate tie bracing, for that reason several of these might have been prevented. Operators should make certain that all wheels are locked and braces as a critical safety precaution to prevent the device from toppling over.

Marking the neighbouring area with observable markers need to be used to safeguard would-be passers-by in order that they do not come near the lift. What's more, markings must be set at about 10 feet of clearance amid any electric lines and the aerial lift. Hoist operators must at all times be well harnessed to the hoist while up in the air.