Ontario Aerial Lift Safety Training

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

The safe operation of an aerial lift needs a check on the following items before utilizing the device: emergency and operating controls, personal fall protection gear, safety devices, and tires and wheels. Check for possible leaks in the air, fuel-system, hydraulic fluid. Check the device for missing or loose parts.

The location where the device will be utilized should be carefully checked for potential hazards, like bumps, holes, debris and drop-offs. Overhead power lines should be closely monitored or avoided. It is recommended that aerial lift devices be utilized on surfaces that are level and stable. Don't work on steep slopes that exceed slope restrictions specified by the manufacturer. Even on a level slope, wheel chocks, outriggers and brakes should be set.

Companies must provide their aerial lift operators with the correct guidebooks. Operators and mechanics should be trained by a certified person experienced with the relevant aerial lift model.

Aerial Lift Safety Guidelines:
o Before operating, close doors and lift platform chains.
o Leaning over and climbing on guardrails is prohibited. Stand on the platform or floor of the bucket.
o Stay within manufacturer's load-capacity limitations.
o When working near traffic, use appropriate work-zone warnings, like for example cones and signs.

If correct procedures are followed, electrocutions are avoidable. Stay at least ten feet away from whichever power lines and certified electricians should insulate and/or de-energize power lines. Individuals working must use personal protective tools and equipment, such as a bucket that is insulated. Nevertheless, a bucket that is insulated does not protect from electrocution if, for instance, the individual working touches a different wire providing a path to the ground.

When inside the bucket, workers have to prevent possible falls by securing themselves to the guardrails by using a full-body harness or a positioning device. If there is an anchorage inside the bucket, a positioning belt with a short lanyard is adequate.

Tip-overs are preventable by following the manufacturer's instructions. Unless the manufacturer specifies otherwise, never drive when the lift platform is elevated. Follow the device's horizontal and vertical reach limitations, and never exceed the load-capacity which is specified.