

Aerial Lifts

Aerial platform lifts are able to accommodate various duties involving high and tricky reaching spaces. Sometimes used to perform routine preservation in buildings with lofty ceilings, trim tree branches, raise burdensome shelving units or patch up telephone cables. A ladder might also be utilized for some of the aforementioned jobs, although aerial platform lifts provide more safety and strength when correctly used.

There are a number of distinctive designs of aerial lifts available, each being capable of performing slightly unique tasks. Painters will sometimes use a scissor lift platform, which can be used to reach the 2nd story of buildings. The scissor aerial platform lifts use criss-cross braces to stretch out and extend upwards. There is a table attached to the top of the braces that rises simultaneously as the criss-cross braces lift.

Container trucks and cherry pickers are another kind of aerial hoist. They possess a bucket platform on top of an extended arm. As this arm unfolds, the attached platform rises. Lift trucks use a pronged arm that rises upwards as the lever is moved. Boom hoists have a hydraulic arm which extends outward and raises the platform. All of these aerial platform lifts have need of special training to operate.

Training courses offered through Occupational Safety & Health Association, acknowledged also as OSHA, cover safety strategies, system operation, maintenance and inspection and machine load capacities. Successful completion of these training courses earns a special certified license. Only properly qualified people who have OSHA operating licenses should drive aerial hoists. The Occupational Safety & Health Organization has formed rules to maintain safety and prevent injury when utilizing aerial hoists. Common sense rules such as not using this apparatus to give rides and ensuring all tires on aerial platform lifts are braced in order to hinder machine tipping are observed within the rules.

Unfortunately, figures reveal that in excess of 20 aerial hoist operators pass away each year while operating and nearly ten percent of those are commercial painters. The bulk of these incidents were caused by improper tie bracing, therefore several of these may well have been prevented. Operators should ensure that all wheels are locked and braces as a critical safety precaution to stop the device from toppling over.

Marking the surrounding area with visible markers have to be utilized to protect would-be passers-by so they do not come near the lift. Furthermore, markings must be set at about 10 feet of clearance amid any power lines and the aerial lift. Hoist operators should at all times be properly harnessed to the hoist when up in the air.