Guelph Aerial Lift Safety Training

Guelph Aerial Lift Safety Training - Each year, there are roughly 26 construction deaths due to the use of aerial lifts. Nearly all of the craftsmen killed are laborers, electrical workers, carpenters, painters or ironworkers. Nearly all deaths are caused by tip-overs, electrocutions and falls. The greatest risk is from boom-supported lifts, like cherry pickers and bucket trucks. The majority of the deaths are connected to this type of lift, with the rest involving scissor lifts. Other risks include being struck by falling things, being thrown out of a bucket, and being caught between the guardrail or lift bucket and a thing, like for example a joist or steel beam.

To be able to operate an aerial lift safely, carry out an inspection on the following items prior to making use of the device: emergency and operating controls, safety devices (such as, guardrails and outriggers), personal fall protection gear, and tires and wheels. Look for possible leaks in the air, fuel-system, hydraulic fluid. Inspect the device for loose or missing parts.

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

Companies should provide their aerial lift operators with the correct instruction manuals. Mechanics and operators must be trained by a licensed person experienced with the applicable aerial lift model.

Aerial Lift Safety Tips:
o Prior to operating, close lift platform chains and doors.
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 limitations.
o Make use of work-zone warnings, like signs and cones, when working near traffic.

Electrocutions are preventable if safety procedures are followed. Stay as far away from power lines - at least 10 feet. Qualified electrical workers should de-energize and/or insulate power lines. Workers must use personal protective equipment and tools, such as a bucket that is insulated. Nonetheless, a bucket that is insulated does not protect from electrocution if, for example, the worker touches another wire providing a path to the ground.

Falls are avoidable if the individual working remains secure within guardrails or in the bucket 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 acceptable.

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