Aerial Lift Safety Training Ontario

Aerial Lift Safety Training Ontario - There are approximately 26 to 30 construction fatalities within North America attributed to the use of aerial lifts. Nearly all of the individuals killed are craftsmen such as laborers, painters, electrical workers, ironworkers or carpenters. Nearly all fatalities are caused by electrocutions, falls and tip-overs. The greatest danger is from boom-supported lifts, such as bucket trucks and cherry pickers. Most fatalities are related to this particular kind 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 guardrail or lift bucket and an object, like for example a joist or steel beam.

To operate an aerial lift safely, carry out an inspection on the following things before utilizing the device: operating and emergency controls, safety devices (like for instance, outriggers and guardrails), personal fall protection gear, and wheels and tires. Look for possible leaks in the air, hydraulic fluid and fuel-system. Inspect the device for loose or missing parts.

The areas that worker would use the aerial device must be examined carefully for potential hazards, such as bumps, holes, drop-offs and debris. Overhead powerlines have to be avoided and monitored. It is suggested that aerial lift devices be used on level, stable surfaces. Do not work on steep slopes which go beyond slope restrictions specified by the manufacturer. Even on a slope which is level, brakes, wheel chocks and outriggers should be set.

Employers are required to provide maintenance mechanics and aerial lift operators with the correct manuals. Mechanics and operators must be trained by a qualified individual experienced with the relevant aerial lift model.

Aerial Lift Safety Guidelines:
o Close lift platform chains or doors prior to operating.
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 restrictions.
o Use work-zone warnings, like for instance cones and signs, when working near traffic.

If right procedures are followed, electrocutions are preventable. Stay at least 10 feet away from any power lines and qualified electricians should insulate and/or de-energize power lines. Workers must utilize personal protective equipment and tools, such as insulated bucket. Nonetheless, an insulated bucket does not protect from electrocution if, for example, the individual working touches another wire providing a path to the ground.

Falls are avoidable if the person working remains secure within guardrails or within the bucket by using a full-body harness or a positioning device. If there is an anchorage in the bucket, a positioning belt with a short lanyard is adequate.

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