

Aerial Lifts for General Industry: Identifying Hazards

Handout

Identifying hazards

Many workers are injured or killed on aerial lifts each year. This is why it's extremely important for employers and workers to anticipate, identify, and proactively avoid hazards they may encounter using or working near aerial lifts.

Unsafe behavior

It should go without saying that individuals operating an aerial lift should work safely. Still, many injuries occur each year due to careless work habits in or around aerial lifts. Workers operating lifts should:

- Never extend beyond a safe reach,
- Never overload beyond the lift's maximum limit, and
- Be aware of surroundings.

Unsafe Equipment

Potential mechanical and structural failure of equipment can lead to danger, too. For example, a malfunctioning aerial lift might create a falling or struck-by hazard. Workers should always:

- Visually inspect the lift,
- Notify employer of any structural or mechanical defects, and
- Ensure manufacturer's instructions are visible and easy to read.

Unsafe environment

Hazards in the environment are created either by human hands or natural phenomena. Examples of these types of hazards include:

- Weather conditions,
- Unstable ground,
- Overhead objects, and
- Unsafe activities around aerial lifts.



Prevent hazards

With so many potential hazards, it's important proper precautions are taken before and after aerial lift use. A simple oversight of any of these hazards could result in property damage, injury, or even loss of life.

