

Aerial Lifts

Aerial hoists can accommodate numerous tasks involving high and hard reaching places. Sometimes utilized to perform routine upkeep in structures with elevated ceilings, trim tree branches, raise heavy shelving units or repair phone cables. A ladder might also be utilized for many of the aforementioned projects, although aerial hoists provide more security and strength when properly used.

There are a couple of distinctive designs of aerial hoists existing, each being able to perform slightly different jobs. Painters will often use a scissor lift platform, which is able to be used to reach the 2nd story of buildings. The scissor aerial hoists use criss-cross braces to stretch and extend upwards. There is a table attached to the top of the braces that rises simultaneously as the criss-cross braces elevate.

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

Through the Occupational Safety & Health Association, also called OSHA, training courses are on hand to help make certain the workforce satisfy occupational values for safety, system operation, inspection and upkeep and machine weight capacities. Workforce receive certification upon completion of the classes and only OSHA certified personnel should operate aerial lifts. The Occupational Safety & Health Organization has established rules to maintain safety and prevent injury when utilizing aerial hoists. Common sense rules such as not utilizing this machine to give rides and ensuring all tires on aerial lift trucks are braced in order to hinder machine tipping are referred to within the guidelines.

Regrettably, statistics show that in excess of 20 operators pass away each year while working with aerial hoists and 8% of those are commercial painters. Most of these accidents are due to improper tire bracing and the lift falling over; therefore several of these deaths had been preventable. Operators should make certain that all wheels are locked and braces as a critical safety precaution to prevent the machine from toppling over.

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