

AERIAL LIFT RESCUE

Aerial lift evacuation and extrication techniques are an imperative skill for you to have when working with bucket trucks, cherry pickers and boom lifts. It is important for you to receive proper training prior to commencing this type of work.

When working with an aerial lift, if you or the operator become injured and are unable to control the bucket, a crew member on the ground may use ground controls to safely lower the bucket. If both upper and lower bucket controls are not working, an aerial rescue and evacuation is required.

There are a number of scenarios that call for an evacuation. However it most commonly involves an uninjured or mildly injured operator evacuating the bucket under their own power. An evacuation may also become necessary as a result of hydraulic failure, a fire in the truck or ejection resulting from the lift bucket. Most aerial lifts are equipped with evacuation systems and sometimes have climbing systems in the bucket. You should be familiar with any such features on the vehicle that you are working on.

Despite the presence of an evacuation system, you should also have access to and be familiar with how to use any system that allows you to either regain the bucket or release your lanyard after securing the evacuation system.

In the event that an operator of an aerial lift becomes unconscious or severely injured, an aerial rescue must be made. This type of removal is called extrication. Most lifts have systems that allow for the swiveling of the bucket to a horizontal position. This allows you to more easily remove a victim. It is important to familiarize yourself with any such capabilities on any aerial lift that you are working on or with.

If aerial lifts do not have the capability to swivel, they can be equipped with a variety of alternatives. Some use pulleys to create mechanical advantage, others ratcheting cranks to create lift. Each of these are intended to give you the lifting power and ability to remove a victim from a bucket. You should be familiar with any and all extrication tools and capabilities potentially available. It is important to know a hand line and a life line are crucial for rescue.

Always evaluate the situation, should a rescue become necessary. If there is a high risk for yourself to become injured while conducting a rescue, wait and contact the appropriate emergency personnel. Never administer first aid to a victim being extricated from an aerial lift bucket until you are both safely on the ground. If you have any questions, consult your supervisor regarding your company's emergency response protocols.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What are some scenarios that may require an aerial lift extrication?

What should you do if an aerial lift operator becomes seriously injured?

What should you do if there is a high risk for yourself to become injured while conducting a rescue?

SAFETY TALK ATTENDANCE ROSTER



COMPANY: _____ JOB/DEPT: _____

DATE: ___/___/____ TIME: _____

TOPICS ADDRESSED: _____

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES:

_____	_____	_____
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EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: _____

ACTION TAKEN: _____

Supervisor's Signature

___/___/___
Date

Safety Coordinator's Signature

___/___/___
Date