

AERIAL LIFT TRUCKS

The use of aerial lift trucks can be a great benefit for utility workers. However, they must be well maintained. Dielectric testing must be performed annually by a qualified service technician. When working with an aerial lift truck, you must always conduct a daily inspection at the start of each shift to identify any abnormalities and wear. Be sure that you follow all DOT (Department of Transportation) inspection requirements and manufacturer instructions for visual inspections and functional tests. During inspections, you should evaluate the following:

- Attachment welds between actuating cylinders and booms or pedestals
- Pivot pins (for security of their locking devices)
- Exposed cables, sheaves and leveling devices (for both wear and security of attachment)
- Hydraulic system (for leaks and wear)
- Lubrication of boom
- Boom and basket (for cracks or abrasions)
- Operation of boom from ground controls through one complete cycle
- Any other inspections recommended by the manufacturer



Whenever you identify any defects, report them to your supervisor immediately and make sure they are corrected before use.

After completing the inspection, let the aerial lift to warm up and make certain that only authorized and properly trained employees use the lift. Make sure you adhere to all weight limits for the boom and basket. Always avoid shock loading or sudden stops and starts. Most aerial trucks have upper and lower operational controls, however never use the lower controls unless it's been cleared with the individual working in the bucket or basket.

Make sure that approved fall protection is worn at all times. Never attach your safety lanyard to an adjacent pole or object or stand or sit on the top or edge of the bucket or basket. Do not wear climbers while in the basket. Make sure your feet always stay on the floor while in the basket.

An aerial lift should never be moved while extended. Additionally, you should never ride in a bucket or basket from one location to another. If you are working in an aerial lift, make sure that the truck's emergency brake is on and that wheel chocks and outriggers with outrigger pads are used at all times.

Using an aerial lift over a street and/or highway is not recommended. However if there is no alternative, your supervisor should enlist the support of local law enforcement as an additional precaution for work area protection. If there are two workers in an aerial lift bucket or basket, designate only one to operate directional controls.

If you are working near energized lines or equipment, wear rubber protective equipment. This includes those working on the ground near the lift. Whenever you are working on the ground, never make contact with truck bodies or grounding assemblies.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

When is it safe to ride in a bucket or basket from one location to another?

SAFETY TALK ATTENDANCE ROSTER



COMPANY: _____ JOB/DEPT: _____

DATE: ___/___/_____ TIME: _____

TOPICS ADDRESSED: _____

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: _____

ACTION TAKEN: _____

Supervisor's Signature

___/___/___
Date

Safety Coordinator's Signature

___/___/___
Date