

Toolbox talk

Year-round

5 minutes

## Aerial Lift Toolbox Talk

Inspect the lift and the ground before elevating, tie off in boom lifts, keep clearance from power lines, stay inside the rails, and never override controls or exit at height without a plan.

### READ ALOUD (ABOUT 5 MINUTES)

An aerial lift moves the fall hazard, the crush hazard, and the electrical hazard around the site with you. The controls travel with the machine: inspection, ground, tie-off, clearance.

Before elevating: walk-around inspection, controls test, and a look at the route and the ground - slopes, soft soil, covers, debris, and overhead obstructions. In a boom lift, wear a harness with the lanyard tied to the manufacturer's anchor. The basket can whip and eject you even without a collision.

Keep required clearance from energized lines - for most work near distribution lines that means at least 10 feet, more at higher voltages. Stay inside the rails, never climb on them, and never wedge the controls. If the lift sinks, leans, or alarms, lower it and reassess.

### INCIDENT EXAMPLE

A mechanical crew drove a scissor lift across a floor opening covered with plywood that was not rated for the load. One wheel broke through, the lift lurched, and a worker was thrown against the rails. The route had been walked in the morning - before the covers were moved by another trade.

### CONTROLS TO COVER

- Do the pre-use inspection and function test every shift.
- Check the travel route and ground conditions, including covers and slopes.
- Tie off to the designated anchor in boom lifts; keep both feet on the floor.
- Hold minimum clearance from power lines and use a spotter near obstructions.

### CREW DISCUSSION

1. What route will lifts travel today, and who checked it since yesterday?
2. Where are the overhead hazards - lines, steel, ducts - on this site?
3. What is the rescue plan if the platform controls fail at height?

### QUICK QUIZ

1. Is a harness required in a boom lift?  
Yes - tied to the manufacturer's designated anchor, not the rail of a nearby structure.
2. What is the general minimum clearance from distribution power lines?  
At least 10 feet, and more as voltage increases.
3. A floor cover is in the travel path. What now?  
Stop and confirm it is rated and secured before driving over it.

# Toolbox Talk Sign-In Sheet

Attendance record for the talk above. Reviewers (OSHA, GC, ISNetworld/Avetta) expect topic, date, presenter identity, and attendee signatures.

Project / location

Date and time

Topic: Aerial Lift Toolbox Talk

Presenter (print)

Presenter signature

| NAME (PRINT) | COMPANY / TRADE | SIGNATURE |
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Concerns raised and follow-up actions (owner, due date)