Surrey Aerial Lift Safety Training

Surrey Aerial Lift Safety Training - There are around 26 to 30 construction fatalities in North America due to the use of aerial lifts. Nearly all of the people killed are craftsmen like painters, electrical workers, laborers, carpenters or ironworkers. The majority of the fatalities are caused by electrocutions, falls and tip-overs. The greatest danger is from boom-supported lifts, like bucket trucks and cherry pickers. Nearly all fatalities are related to this type of lift, with the rest involving scissor lifts. Other dangers include being thrown out of a bucket, being struck by falling things, and being caught between the guardrail or lift bucket and a thing, like a steel beam or joist.

The safe operation of an aerial lift requires an inspection on the following items prior to using the device: emergency and operating controls, safety devices, personal fall protection gear, and wheels and tires. Check for possible leaks in the air, fuel-system, hydraulic fluid. Inspect the device for missing or loose components.

The area where the device will be utilized must be carefully checked for potential dangers, such as bumps, holes, debris and drop-offs. Overhead power lines must be avoided or closely monitored. It is suggested that aerial lift devices be used on level, stable surfaces. Do not work on steep slopes that go beyond slope limitations specified by the manufacturer. Even on a level slope, wheel chocks, outriggers and brakes should be set.

Businesses should provide their aerial lift operators with the correct guidebooks. Mechanics and operators should be trained by a licensed individual experienced with the relevant kind of aerial lift.

Aerial Lift Safety Tips:
o Close lift platform chains or doors prior to operating.
o Climbing on and leaning over guardrails is prohibited. Stand on the platform or floor of the bucket.
o Make use of the provided manufacturer's load-capacity limits.
o When working near traffic, make use of appropriate work-zone warnings, like signs and cones.

If proper procedures are followed, electrocutions are preventable. Stay at least 10 feet away from any power lines and licensed electricians must de-energize and/or insulate power lines. Individuals working should use personal protective tools and equipment, like for instance a bucket that is insulated. Nonetheless, a bucket that is insulated does not protect from electrocution if, for instance, the person working touches another wire providing a path to the ground.

When in the bucket, workers must prevent possible falls by securing themselves to the guardrails by making use of a positioning device or a full-body harness. If there is an anchorage in the bucket, a positioning belt with a short lanyard is acceptable.

By following the manufacturer's directions, tip-overs could be prevented. Never drive the lift platform while it is elevated, unless the manufacturer specifies otherwise. Follow the device's horizontal and vertical reach restrictions, and never exceed the specified load-capacity.