Calgary Aerial Lift Safety Training

Calgary Aerial Lift Safety Training - Each and every year, there are approximately 26 construction deaths due to the use of aerial lifts. Nearly all of the craftsmen killed are laborers, electrical workers, ironworkers, carpenters or painters. Nearly all deaths are caused by electrocutions, falls and tip-overs. The greatest risk is from boom-supported lifts, like cherry pickers and bucket trucks. Most fatalities are related to this particular type of lift, with the rest involving scissor lifts. Other hazards comprise 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.

To be able to operate an aerial lift safely, perform a check on the following items before utilizing the device: emergency and operating controls, safety devices (such as, outriggers and guardrails), personal fall protection gear, and tires and wheels. Check for possible leaks in the air, fuel-system, hydraulic fluid. Inspect the device for loose or missing parts.

The places where worker would make use of the aerial device should be examined carefully for potential hazards, like for example bumps, holes, drop-offs and debris. Overhead powerlines need to be avoided and monitored. It is suggested that aerial lift devices be utilized on surfaces that are level and stable. Never work on steep slopes that go beyond slope restrictions specified by the manufacturer. Even on a level slope, outriggers, brakes and wheel chocks should be set.

Businesses should provide their aerial lift operators with the correct instruction manuals. Operators and mechanics must be trained by a qualified individual experienced with the relevant aerial lift model.

Aerial Lift Safety Guidelines:
o Close doors or lift platform chains prior to operating.
o Do not climb on or lean over guardrails. Stand on the floor of the bucket or platform.
o Make use of the provided manufacturer's load-capacity limits.
o Make use of work-zone warnings, such as signs and cones, when working near traffic.

Electrocutions are avoidable if safety procedures are followed. Stay well away from power lines - at least 10 feet. Experienced electrical workers must insulate and/or de-energize power lines. Workers should make use of personal protective equipment and tools, such as insulated bucket. However, a bucket that is insulated does not protect from electrocution if, for example, the worker touches a different wire providing a path to the ground.

When inside the bucket, workers have to 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 together with a short lanyard is acceptable.

Tip-overs are avoidable by following the manufacturer's directions. Unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer, never drive whilst the lift platform is elevated. Follow the horizontal and vertical reach restrictions of the device, and never exceed the specified load-capacity.