Aerial Lifts

Aerial forklifts are able to accommodate various duties involving high and hard reaching places. Normally utilized to complete routine maintenance in structures with tall ceilings, trim tree branches, elevate heavy shelving units or patch up telephone cables. A ladder might also be used for some of the aforementioned tasks, although aerial hoists offer more safety and strength when correctly used.

There are several designs of aerial platform lifts available on the market depending on what the task required involves. Painters often use scissor aerial hoists for instance, which are grouped as mobile scaffolding, useful in painting trim and reaching the 2nd story and above on buildings. The scissor aerial lifts use criss-cross braces to stretch out and extend upwards. There is a table attached to the top of the braces that rises simultaneously as the criss-cross braces elevate.

Cherry pickers and bucket trucks are a further variety of the aerial lift. Typically, they contain a bucket at the end of an elongated arm and as the arm unfolds, the attached bucket lift rises. Lift trucks use a pronged arm that rises upwards as the handle is moved. Boom hoists have a hydraulic arm that extends outward and hoists the platform. Every one of these aerial hoists have need of special training to operate.

Through the Occupational Safety & Health Association, also labeled OSHA, training courses are on hand to help make certain the employees satisfy occupational standards for safety, system operation, inspection and upkeep and machine load capacities. Workforce receive qualifications upon completion of the lessons and only OSHA licensed employees should drive aerial platform lifts. The Occupational Safety & Health Organization has developed rules to uphold safety and prevent injury while utilizing aerial hoists. Common sense rules such as not utilizing this piece of equipment to give rides and making sure all tires on aerial platform lifts are braced in order to prevent machine tipping are referred to within the guidelines.

Sadly, data expose that more than 20 aerial hoist operators pass away each year while operating and just about ten percent of those are commercial painters. The bulk of these incidents were brought on by inadequate tie bracing, for that reason a few of these might have been prevented. Operators should make certain that all wheels are locked and braces as a critical safety precaution to prevent the machine from toppling over.

Other suggestions include marking the surrounding area of the device in an observable manner to protect passers-by and to guarantee they do not approach too close to the operating machine. It is imperative to ensure that there are also 10 feet of clearance amid any utility lines and the aerial lift. Operators of this equipment are also highly recommended to always wear the appropriate security harness when up in the air.