



# MEL SAFETY INSTITUTE SHIFT BRIEFING

## Fall Protection – Aerial Lifts

This department utilizes aerial lifts and bucket trucks **[identify equipment & vehicles the department owns or leases]** for a variety of tasks, including **[list jobs]**. Using aerial lifts exposes workers to numerous hazards that include: falls, objects falling from the lifts, tip-overs, ejections from the lift platform, structural failures (collapses), electric shock (electrocutions), entanglement hazard, contact with objects, and contact with ceiling and other overhead objects.

Only trained and authorized persons are permitted to operate an aerial lift.

Before using any aerial device or vehicle, operators must inspect the vehicle and aerial boom, platform and basket. This should be completed before leaving the Department facility. You can use the vehicle inspection forms for the truck, but you will also need to verify that the aerial lift and all its components are in good condition and operating properly. Be sure to check the controls both in the basket and the remote controls **[where on the vehicle]**. If you are not sure of any of the inspection procedures, check the owners' manual, located **[where]**.

Check the weather forecast. High winds, heavy rains, snow storms and similar conditions may make using aerial devices too hazardous. It is our policy **[fill in wind conditions, etc. where the aerial may not be used. Check your owners' manuals]**.

When you reach the work site:

Inspect the ground where the vehicle or aerial device will be set-up. It must be firm and stable. Be sure to look for conditions such as drop-offs, holes, unstable surfaces such as ice or snow, severe slopes, ditches, bumps, debris and floor obstructions if working indoors.

Inspect the area for overhead hazards such as inadequate ceiling heights, **overhead electric power lines and communication cable (stay at least 10 feet away)**, overhead fixtures, and other. Be sure to consider the use of tools when checking for clearances. For example, if you will be using a 10 foot pole saw, you must stay 20 feet from electrical power lines.

Lastly, evaluate the area around the operation for pedestrian traffic and vehicle traffic. Set-up cones and warning signs. If you will be working on a public road, be sure to refer to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control for the necessary traffic control devices and plans.

Set up the aerial device as directed by the owners' manual. Set the brake and place chocks at the wheels of the vehicle. Use outriggers when provided and possible. Use plates for the feet of the outriggers when possible.

The use of fall protection is required. Follow the manufacturer's recommendation for the fall protection for each aerial lift. Fall protection includes but not limited to:

- Ensure the access gates or opening are closed,
- Stand firmly on the floor of bucket or lift platform, do not climb or lean over the guardrails or handrails,
- Use a body harness or a restraining belt with a lanyard attached to the boom or bucket
- DO NOT anchor to adjacent structures or pole while in the bucket.

**Are there any questions?**

This lesson plan is intended for general information purposes only. It should not be construed as legal advice or legal opinion regarding any specific or factual situation. Always follow your organization's policies and procedures as presented by your manager or supervisor. For further information regarding this bulletin, please contact your Safety Director at 877.398.3046.