



HESQ BULLETIN AERIAL LIFTS

January 15, 2014



Between 1992 and 1999 in the US, there were around 26 construction worker deaths each year involving aerial liftsⁱ. On aerial lifts, the major causes are falls, electrocutions, and collapses or tip-overs. Boom lifts accounted for most of these deaths:

- Half of the falls from boom lifts involved being ejected from the bucket after being struck by vehicles, cranes, or crane loads, or by falling objects, or when a lift suddenly jerked.
- Two-thirds of the deaths from collapses/tip-overs of boom lifts occurred when the bucket cable or boom broke or the bucket fell; almost one-third were due to tip-overs.
- Half of the boom lift electrocutions involved body contact with overhead power lines, mostly involving electricians or electrical power installers and repairers. Over one-third of the electrocutions involved an overhead power line contacting the lift boom or bucket.
- **In most of the caught in/between deaths, a worker was caught between the bucket edge and objects such as roof joists or beams while repositioning the bucket.**



Other data show that in 2012 alone, there were 31 fatalities worldwide involving aerial lifts resulting from falls from platform (9), electrocution (8), overturn (6), entrapment (4), and mechanical/technical related (4)ⁱⁱ. Even in Point Lisas, there was an instance where a worker died whilst operating a boom lift when he became pinned between the unit and a pipe.

These lifts therefore present serious hazards that must be managed. The following are some guidelines for the safe operation of these units.

Only trained and authorized people should operate the lift. The operator must read and/or understand the equipment's safety and operating instructions. This includes all of the warning decals and labels mounted on the machine. The operator and any attendant must know how to lower the lift when the power is not operating and in an emergency.

Prior to each shift a safety inspection should be completed by the operator; this includes both a visual inspection and a function test. If a problem is found, get the lift repaired before it is used.

Wear safety harnesses and tie-off to the manufacture provided anchorage point within the platform at all times when you're in the basket. This includes when you are lowered and moving the equipment to another location. Check for overhead obstructions before driving or elevating the platform. Use a spotter when you need one. Be extra careful around critical or delicate equipment.

When moving the lift into position, make sure that the floor or ground surfaced can support the lift. Make sure that there are no holes, drop-offs or obstructions in the path of travel. Restrict pedestrian traffic around the lift. Always maintain a safe distance from debris piles, drop-offs, floor openings, etc. Only utilize the lift on level ground. Never drive the man lift when it is elevated above the limit the manufacturer considers safe.

Each piece of equipment will state what the maximum extension can be while being driven. Elevate the platform only when it is on a firm, level surface.

Never walk under the boom to gain access to the platform. Always stand on the platform floor. Never stand or sit on the railing. Always look in the direction the machine is moving. Do not rest the boom or basket on a steel structure of any kind. Keep your hands the external portion of the basket when raising or lowering the basket. Refuel tanks only when the unit is turned off. Have a fire extinguisher mounted in the basket when performing hot work such as welding or grinding. Ensure you have a fire watch person below. Except in a case of an emergency, ground controls shall not be operated on an occupied lift (lift occupant shall be in full control of the lift at all times).

The warehouse roof work creates many potential pinch points, we are moving between beams, in and out of spaces . Each time you adjust the manlift, you have the potential for placing yourself in one of these pinch points. We also have multiple lifts working in one space, and there are persons working nearby on ground level, we need always to be aware of our surroundings. Be careful, do not rush the job. Remember your safety training, make the right decisions... make the choice to stay safe today.

No job is so important or so urgent that we cannot take time to perform it safely.

TEAM DISCUSSION: Company name: _____ Date: _____ (DD/MM/YY)

Name and Signature of Team leader having discussion: _____
Name in Block Signature

Names and signatures of other persons in discussion (continue overleaf if necessary)

Name	Initial	Name	Initial	Name	Initial

ⁱ http://www.elcosh.org/document/1417/d000484/Deaths%2BFrom%2BAerial%2BLifts.html?show_text=1

ⁱⁱ <http://ecmweb.com/safety/ipaf-accident-database-reports-31-fatalities-involving-aerial-platforms-worldwide-2012>

