Aerial and Scissor Lift Safety

Safety is our primary concern when using any equipment to access work at heights. When we are above the ground, accidents can occur if we are not careful. Today we will discuss aerial and scissor lift safety.

Common Accidents: Common accidents include falls, tip-overs, contact with overhead power lines or contact with overhead machinery/obstructions.

Causes: Accidents can be caused by a variety of circumstances, such as, misuse of equipment, faulty equipment, hazards in the work area, uneven or unstable surfaces, lack of training, or being struck by other mobile equipment.

Precautions: When using lifts, there are things we can do to avoid accidents, injuries, and near misses.

- Ensure employees have the proper training and only allow trained employees to use lifts.
- Perform pre-use inspections and surveys of work areas.
- Use equipment only as intended or designed and within manufacturer ratings, limits, and specifications.
- Do not operate lifts in high winds or severe weather.
- Avoid falls: Close lift gates and chains, keep lifts uncluttered and clean, never step on rails, toeboards or anything inside the lift to gain height, do not lean over guardrails, and inspect and use fall protection.
- Avoid being struck: Erect barricades, communicate your plans, and use horns and other signaling devices.
- Avoid tipping: Watch for unprotected sides and edges, curbs, holes, soft ground, and excessive slopes, ensure lighting and visibility, look in the direction of travel, travel with lift lowered and counterweight up grade, know floor/surface ratings.
- Avoid overhead hazards: Survey the area, pay attention to your surroundings and travel with lifts lowered.

Inspections:
Follow manufacturer's instructions to perform the pre-use inspection of equipment and work area.

- Issues such as leaking fluids, hissing or grinding sounds, and erratic movement are cause for concern.
- Use only lifts that have passed inspection. If you discover an unsafe condition, tag the lift "Out of Service" and report the issue immediately.
- In addition to pre-use inspections, follow manufacturer's recommendations for periodic detailed inspections.

Tools/Job Aids:
Inspection checklists and Job Hazard Analysis forms are available to assist you in identifying and mitigating hazards associated with operating and using aerial and scissor lifts. It's important for everyone working with aerial and scissor lifts to be able to identify and control hazards. Remember that as conditions on a job site change, or when you start working with new or different lifts, you may need additional training to use the equipment safely.

Additional Topics: _____

Meeting Date: _____

Conducted By: _____

Notes: _____

Attended By:

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