

What are the dangers of operating an Aerial lift?

It has been statistically established that the mortality rate in operating aerial lifts is about twenty per annum. Of these, the number of deaths in commercial painting environment is on an average eight per annum. Study of the causes of these deaths reveals carelessness on the part of the operator in properly bracing the equipment. To prevent the lift from toppling over, it is important that all the tires on aerial lifts be properly braced.

OSHA has provided a list of guidelines aimed at preventing injury while operating an aerial lift. Most of items in this list are basically common sense, ranging from not giving rides on the lift, to ensuring that there is a clear distance of at least ten feet between the aerial lift and any electricity line. Operators are advised to be alert about keeping all the wheels of the forklift in a locked state. The wheels must also be braced to prevent the lift from tipping. An important responsibility of the operator manning the machine is marking the area around the lift, so as to warn passers-by to not come too close to the machine when it is being deployed. Also, operators are strongly advised to wear appropriate safety harness when they are in the air.