Aerial Lifts

Aerial lift trucks can be utilized to accomplish numerous different tasks performed in hard to reach aerial spaces. A few of the duties associated with this type of lift include performing routine repair on buildings with elevated ceilings, repairing telephone and power cables, raising heavy shelving units, and trimming tree branches. A ladder could also be used for some of the aforementioned tasks, although aerial lifts provide more safety and strength when properly used.

There are many versions of aerial lift trucks accessible on the market depending on what the task needed involves. Painters often use scissor aerial hoists for instance, which are grouped as mobile scaffolding, of use in painting trim and reaching the 2nd story and higher on buildings. The scissor aerial platform lifts use criss-cross braces to stretch out and enlarge upwards. There is a table attached to the top of the braces that rises simultaneously as the criss-cross braces lift.

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

Through the Occupational Safety & Health Association, also called OSHA, instruction courses are offered to help make sure the workforce satisfy occupational principles for safety, machine operation, inspection and maintenance and machine weight capacities. Workforce receive qualifications upon completion of the lessons and only OSHA qualified employees should drive aerial lift trucks. The Occupational Safety & Health Organization has developed rules to maintain safety and prevent injury when utilizing aerial platform lifts. Common sense rules such as not using this piece of equipment to give rides and making sure all tires on aerial platform lifts are braced so as to prevent machine tipping are referred to within the rules.

Sadly, data show that more than 20 operators pass away each year while operating aerial lift trucks and 8% of those are commercial painters. Most of these mishaps are due to inappropriate tire bracing and the hoist falling over; for that reason many of these deaths had been preventable. Operators should ensure that all wheels are locked and braces as a critical security precaution to prevent the device from toppling over.

Other guidelines involve marking the encircling area of the device in an obvious manner to safeguard passers-by and to ensure they do not approach too close to the operating machine. It is crucial to ensure that there are also 10 feet of clearance among any utility cables and the aerial hoist. Operators of this machinery are also highly recommended to always wear the appropriate safety harness when up in the air.