

AERIAL LIFT DEVICES

Municipalities use Aerial Lift devices for a variety of reasons, from installing hanging planters in the spring, to putting up banners for events or lights for Christmas, to street light maintenance and any other number of ways.

The two most common aerial lift devices used in municipalities:

Scissor Lift (often referred to as a “Genie Lift” which is one manufacturer of the device)



Bucket Truck

Aerial lift trucks are a good substitution for working from ladders or scaffolding, and can prevent the risk of back, neck and shoulder injuries as they can place you in the perfect location to perform work. But if not used correctly, serious injuries or death can occur from electrocution, falls, tip-overs, over-capacity use, or equipment malfunctions.

WorkSafeBC OH&S Regulation Part 13 and the concurrent Guideline cover Temporary Work Platforms. These must be reviewed and understood by supervisors assigning aerial device work, and by workers who will be using the equipment.

No one may operate an aerial lift without proper training and qualifications, and once trained, must follow manufacturers' instructions.

Anyone in the bucket must wear a full body harness, with lanyard attached to an engineered anchor in the bucket or on the boom. Proper fall protection will prevent a serious injury in a fall.

Make sure the full extension of the bucket will not get within ten feet (3 meters) of power lines.

Before operating an aerial lift device:

- Perform a pre-use inspection.
- Make sure the base controls are operational, so someone on the ground can bring you safely down if you are unable to.
- Look for overhead hazards. Remember it isn't how close you intend to work to the powerlines; if a fully extended aerial device would place you or your tools within 10' of the powerline, you must not perform work; follow OH&S Regulation Part 19.



- Try to set up on level ground. Place wheel chocks, set riggers and brakes.
- Don't exceed operating limits for the aerial lift device.
- Keep the inside of the bucket free of tripping hazards. Don't lean over the guardrail or climb over it.
- Don't operate a boom if winds exceed 50 km/h (30 mph).
- And finally, ensure the aerial lift device receives an annual inspection in accordance with WorkSafeBC and manufacturers requirements.

