Aerial Lifts

Aerial jacks are able to accommodate many duties involving high and tough reaching spaces. Normally utilized to perform daily maintenance in buildings with lofty ceilings, trim tree branches, raise burdensome shelving units or repair phone lines. A ladder could also be utilized for many of the aforementioned tasks, although aerial hoists offer more security and stability when properly used.

There are a number of distinctive designs of aerial hoists accessible, each being able to perform moderately unique tasks. Painters will often use a scissor lift platform, which is able to be used to reach the 2nd story of buildings. The scissor aerial lifts use criss-cross braces to stretch and lengthen upwards. There is a platform attached to the top of the braces that rises simultaneously as the criss-cross braces lift.

Container trucks and cherry pickers are a different type of aerial lift. They possess a bucket platform on top of a long arm. As this arm unfolds, the attached platform rises. Forklifts utilize a pronged arm that rises upwards as the handle is moved. Boom hoists have a hydraulic arm that extends outward and raises the platform. All of these aerial hoists call for special training to operate.

Training programs offered through Occupational Safety & Health Association, known also as OSHA, cover safety strategies, machine operation, repair and inspection and device cargo capacities. Successful completion of these training courses earns a special certified certificate. Only properly qualified individuals who have OSHA operating licenses should operate aerial platform lifts. The Occupational Safety & Health Organization has formed rules to maintain safety and prevent injury while utilizing aerial hoists. Common sense rules such as not using this piece of equipment to give rides and making sure all tires on aerial lifts are braced so as to hinder machine tipping are referred to within the rules.

Sadly, figures show that more than 20 operators die each year while working with aerial platform lifts and 8% of those are commercial painters. Most of these incidents are due to improper tire bracing and the hoist falling over; for that reason a lot of of these deaths had been preventable. Operators should make certain that all wheels are locked and braces as a critical safety precaution to stop the device from toppling over.

Additional guidelines include marking the surrounding area of the device in a visible manner to protect passers-by and to guarantee they do not approach too close to the operating machine. It is crucial to ensure that there are also 10 feet of clearance amid any utility lines and the aerial lift. Operators of this equipment are also highly recommended to always have on the proper safety harness while up in the air.