Vancouver Aerial Lift Safety Training

Vancouver Aerial Lift Safety Training - Every year, there are around 26 construction deaths attributed to the use of aerial lifts. Most of the craftsmen killed are laborers, electrical workers, carpenters, painters or ironworkers. Most fatalities are caused by falls, tip-overs and electrocutions. The greatest risk is from boom-supported lifts, like bucket trucks and cherry pickers. The majority of the fatalities are connected to this kind of lift, with the rest involving scissor lifts. Other hazards include being struck by falling things, being thrown out of a bucket, and being caught between the lift bucket or guardrail and a thing, like for example a steel beam or joist.

To safely operate an aerial lift, perform an inspection on the following items before utilizing the device: operating and emergency controls, safety devices (like for example, outriggers and guardrails), personal fall protection gear, and wheels and tires. Look for possible leaks in the air, hydraulic fluid and fuel-system. Check the device for missing or loose components.

The location where the device would be utilized must be thoroughly inspected for possible hazards, such as holes, bumps, debris and drop-offs. Overhead power lines must be closely monitored or avoided. It is recommended that aerial lift devices be used on surfaces that are level and stable. Never work on steep slopes that go beyond slope limitations which the manufacturer specified. Even on a level slope, brakes, wheel chocks and outriggers must be set.

Companies should provide their aerial lift operators with the right guidebooks. Operators and mechanics have to be trained by a qualified person experienced with the relevant aerial lift model.

Aerial Lift Safety Guidelines:
o Prior to operating, close lift platform chains and doors.
o Do not climb on or lean over guardrails. Stand on the floor of the bucket or platform.
o Stay within manufacturer's load-capacity limitations.
o When working near traffic, utilize proper work-zone warnings, like for example cones and signs.

If proper procedures are followed, electrocutions are preventable. Stay at least 10 feet away from whichever power lines and certified electricians must de-energize and/or insulate power lines. Individuals working must make use of personal protective equipment and tools, like insulated bucket. Nonetheless, an insulated bucket does not protect from electrocution if, for example, the worker touches a different wire providing a path to the ground.

Falls are avoidable if the worker remains secure in guardrails or in the bucket by making use of a full-body harness or a positioning device. If there is an anchorage in the bucket, a positioning belt along with a short lanyard is acceptable.

By following the manufacturer's directions, tip-overs can be prevented. Never drive the lift platform whilst it is elevated, unless the manufacturer specifies otherwise. Follow the horizontal and vertical reach restrictions of the device, and never exceed the specified load-capacity.