

Safe Work Practice SWP-93

### April 2024

# **Aerial Work Platforms / Mobile Elevated Work Platforms**

# **PURPOSE/DEFINITION**

Any person operating an aerial work platform is required to betrained on the safe use of the equipment, as well as any associated hazards. Training should include manufacturers' requirements, recognizing and avoiding unsafe conditions, instructions for correct operation of the lift (including maximum intended load and load capacity), and demonstrations of the skills and knowledge needed to operate an aerial lift. Training will be verified using the applicable Canadian Plain's Competency Assessment (CF-S-30B) performed by the Site Supervisor or their designate. Workers will require formal classroom training before use.

#### **PPE**

- Strike minimum requirements
- Client and Site requirements
- Fall protection equipment

## **TRAINING**

- Fall Protection
- Aerial Work Platform Training

#### **HAZARDS AND CONCERNS**

- Equipment collisions
- Congested work areas.
- Personal injury
- Traffic
- Uneven ground, slopes, ditches
- Fall from heights
- Equipment rollover
- Overhead obstructions

- Weather conditions
- Unauthorized persons in the area
- Objects falling from aerial lifts
- Overhead power lines or cables
- Oil leaks
- Hazardous locations and atmospheres



# **INSPECTIONS**

#### Pre-use

A documented pre-use inspection must be completed prior to use to verify that the equipment and all components are in safe operating condition. If any component of an aerial work platform is identified as defective, do not operate and tag it out of service until repairs can be made. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations and include a check of:

# Vehicle components:

- Proper fluid levels and leaks
- Wheels
- Steering
- Horn, gauges, lights, back-up alarm
- Steering and brakes

#### Lift Components:

- Operating and emergency controls
- Hydraulic, air pneumatic, fuel, and electrical systems
- Missing or unreadable warning, operational, instructional, and control markings
- Mechanical fasteners and locking pins.
- Outriggers, stabilizers, and other structures



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- Loose or missing parts
- Guardrails systems

# Workplace:

Inspect the workplace for hazards and take corrective actions if required. Items to look for are listed under the Hazards and Concerns section.

# **EXITING A PLATFORM AT HEIGHTS**

Exiting/entering an aerial work platform at heights must be captured on the HIAC and reviewed by everyone involved. A rescue plan is required before the start of work.

Before exiting, position the platform so the entry gate is no more than 12 inches away from the adjacent structure of which the worker will exit onto. Shut down the machine once it is correctly positioned. Do not exit or enter if the equipment is running.

The use of a full-body harness and lanyards is required to allow for a 100% tie-off when exiting or entering. Workers must attach a lanyard to an approved adjacent structure anchor before detaching the primary lanyard from the platform anchor. The lanyard attached to the platform must be detached before exiting the platform. When entering the platform, achieve 100% tie-off by attaching one lanyard to the platform anchor before disconnecting the other lanyard. Workers must enter and exit through entry or gate. Never climb on quardrails to enter or exit.

The aerial work platform must be on firm, level ground.

Refer to COP-06 Fall Protection for more information.

**Note:** Verify client/site use requirements.

## **GENERAL DOS AND DON'TS**

#### **THE DOS**

- **DO** HIAC your work task.
- **DO** Review the manufacturer's recommended operating practices.
- **DO** Ensure that the operator is trained and deemed competent to operate the equipment.
- **DO** Complete the pre-use and workplace inspections before use.
- **DO** Tag equipment out of service if any deficiencies are found.
- **DO** Operate on solid, even ground.
- **DO** Before operating on concrete or other building surfaces, ensure the rating of the floor material can withstand the weight of the equipment.
- **DO** Check the platform for properly engineered anchor points.
- **DO** Ensure that the occupants are wearing fall protection equipment.
- **DO** Ensure that access gates or openings are closed.
- **DO** Always make eye contact with pedestrians attempting to go through your path of travel.
- **DO** Be cautious of overhead hazards and obstructions; maintain a safe distance.
- **DO** Keep hands inside guardrails when the platform is approaching other structures.
- **DO** Flag and ribbon off your work area.
- **DO** Ensure smooth, slow starts, turns, and stops when travelling.
- **DO** Follow all posted speed limits.
- **DO** Use a spotter/walker, especially in congested areas.
- **DO** Make sure to have proper ventilation and atmosphere monitoring when operating inside buildings.
- **DO** Set brakes when outriggers are used.
- **DO** Use wheel chocks on sloped surfaces when it is safe to do so.

#### THE DON'TS



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**DON'T** Use the equipment if any item prevents the safe and proper functioning of the machine. Tag out of service and notify your supervisor immediately.

**DON'T** Use the aerial work platform as an elevator/crane.

**DON'T** Exceed the vertical or horizontal reach limits.

**DON'T** Operate in a way to create pinch points or crushing hazards.

**DON'T** Refuel the equipment while it is running.

**DON'T** Drive the unit when the boom is extended or with the lift platform raised.

**DON'T** Continue to operate equipment if a hose is leaking. Stop immediately, contain the leak, and notify the supervisor(s).

**DON'T** Lower the platform unless the area below is clear of workers and obstructions.

**DON'T** Operate the platform within 7 meters of any overhead power line.

**DON'T** Operate over other workers. If needed, use red flagging to identify the area underneath where the platform is going to be operated.

**DON'T** Climb on or lean over quardrails or handrails.

**DON'T** Exceed the load-capacity limits. Take the combined weight of the worker(s), tools, and materials into account when calculating the load.

**DON'T** Operate an aerial work platform in high winds above those recommended by the manufacturer.

**DON'T** Override hydraulic, mechanical, or electrical safety devices.

**DON'T** Modify equipment other than what is allowed by the manufacturer.

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