

TOOL TYPE **PROCEDURE**

GEOGRAPHY **ALL**

SOURCE:

NL GOVT.

OHS

MANUAL

MODEL SAFE WORK PROCEDURE FOR POWERED AERIAL WORK PLATFORMS

BENEFITS

Powered aerial work platforms, such as scissor, boom and vertical lifts, pose a number of hazards to workers. For example, they can tip over if used improperly on uneven ground or contact overhead power lines. So if your workers use powered aerial work platforms, it's critical that you have a safe work procedure for such equipment.

HOW TO USE THE TOOL

Adapt this model safe work procedure for use in your workplace. It should be consistent with your general OHS policies and procedures and compliant with your jurisdiction's OHS laws as they relate to powered aerial work platforms. All workers who use such equipment should be trained on the safe work procedure and supervised to ensure that they comply with it.

OTHER RESOURCES:

NL GOVT. OHS MANUAL

MODEL SAFE WORK PROCEDURE FOR POWERED AERIAL WORK PLATFORMS

This safe work procedure applies to aerial platforms that aren't licensed to travel on public highways. It applies to boom lifts as well as scissor and vertical lifts. Aerial platforms mounted on forklifts or vehicles licensed to travel on public highways require additional safety precautions.

Before Operating an Aerial Platform

Only those individuals who have been authorized by their supervisor and properly instructed in operation procedures are permitted to operate an aerial platform.

The operator must be familiar with the operating procedures and safety precautions as outlined in the manufacturer's operating manual. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- > The manufacturer's warning and caution signs on the machine
- > Locations of all emergency controls and emergency operations
- > Daily maintenance checks to perform
- > Load limits and stability requirements.

The operator must do a careful pre-use inspection of the *machine* and any problems identified must be reported to the supervisor immediately and corrected before operations begin. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- > A walk around visual inspection to ensure tires are properly inflated, there are no leaks in hydraulic or fuel lines and no damage to body frame and platform
- > Check fuel supply and oil levels
- > Check to ensure both upper and lower controls are functioning properly.

The operator must do a careful pre-use inspection of the *work area* to identify any possible operating hazards. Any hazards identified must be reported immediately to the supervisor if they can't be adequately controlled by the operator. These may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- > Power lines: If the platform must be operated within 5.5 meters (18 feet) of an overhead power line, a written clearance must be obtained in advance from the power utility and the operator must have a valid power line hazards certificate.
- > Ground Conditions: including uneven ground, slopes, obstructions, drop offs and debris.
- > Visibility: including overhead obstructions.
- > Traffic: the presence of other equipment, vehicles and/or personnel may require roping-off or barricading the work area and using signage.
- > Weather and Wind Conditions: severe conditions may limit or prohibit use of the aerial platform.

Personal Protective Equipment

Each worker using an aerial platform shall wear appropriate fall arrest equipment including a full body harness and a lanyard. The lanyard shall be tied off to the anchor designated by the manufacturer.

In addition, each worker using an aerial platform shall wear:

- > Appropriate safety footwear
- > Appropriate head protection
- > Eye protection appropriate to the exposure wherever he or she is exposed to the threat of eye injury
- > Suitable devices to protect his or her hearing wherever he or she is exposed to excessive noise

> Protective clothing, including gloves, appropriate to the conditions.

Operating an Aerial Platform

The operator shall exercise due care and attention at all times while operating the aerial platform as well as observe all of the manufacturer's precautions. Where applicable, the operator shall ensure the stabilizers provided by the manufacturer are used.

The operator will immediately stop operation of the aerial platform in the event of any mechanical malfunction or potentially hazardous condition. The problem must be reported to the supervisor and corrected before operations are resumed.

Workers shall not use any devices such as ladders on aerial platforms to achieve additional height or reach. They shall not modify or add attachments to the platform.

The operator shall avoid contacting any structure with the aerial platform. However, in the event that the platform becomes caught against a structure and force is exerted against the platform, the operator shall stop operations from the platform. A sudden release of force against the platform could result in the workers being ejected from the platform. Therefore, the workers must be removed from the platform with the assistance of a second aerial platform or emergency high angle rescue personnel (such as the fire department). After the workers have been returned to the ground, the platform must be dislodged from obstruction using the ground controls.

Worker(s) on the platform must have a "buddy" on the ground to assist in the event of an emergency or some means of communication (such as a cell phone or radio) with someone nearby.

Operation of the controls shall be done smoothly and sudden stops avoided. When traveling on a slope, the operator shall travel in line with the slope as much as possible, as opposed to traversing it. When working on a slope, face uphill and use wheel chocks as appropriate.