Coquitlam Aerial Lift Safety Training

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

The safe operation of an aerial lift requires a check on the following items before using the device: operating and emergency controls, personal fall protection gear, safety devices, and tires and wheels. Check for possible leaks in the air, hydraulic fluid and fuel-system. Check the device for loose or missing components.

The places that worker would use the aerial device must be inspected thoroughly for possible dangers, like for example bumps, holes, debris and drop-offs. Overhead powerlines have to be monitored and avoided. It is suggested that aerial lift devices be used on surfaces which are stable and level. Don't work on steep slopes which go beyond slope limitations specified by the manufacturer. Even on a level slope, wheel chocks, outriggers and brakes must be set.

Employers are needed to provide aerial lift operators and maintenance mechanics with the correct guidebooks. Mechanics and operators have to be trained by a licensed person experienced with the relevant aerial lift model.

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

Electrocutions are avoidable if safety procedures are followed. Stay as far away from power lines - at least 10 feet. Trained electrical workers must de-energize and/or insulate power lines. Workers must utilize personal protective tools and equipment, like insulated bucket. Then again, a bucket that is insulated does not protect from electrocution if, for example, the worker touches a different wire providing a path to the ground.

When inside the bucket, workers need to prevent possible falls by securing themselves to the guardrails by using a positioning device or a full-body harness. If there is an anchorage within the bucket, a positioning belt along with a short lanyard is acceptable.

Tip-overs are preventable by following the manufacturer's instructions. Unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer, never drive while the lift platform is elevated. Follow the device's horizontal and vertical reach limitations, and never exceed the load-capacity which is specified.