Aerial Lifts

Aerial lift trucks can accommodate many odd jobs involving high and tough reaching spaces. Normally used to execute regular repair in buildings with tall ceilings, trim tree branches, hoist burdensome shelving units or mend phone cables. A ladder could also be utilized for many of the aforementioned projects, although aerial hoists provide more security and strength when correctly used.

There are a handful of different models of aerial forklifts available, each being capable of performing slightly unique jobs. Painters will usually use a scissor lift platform, which can be utilized to reach the 2nd story of buildings. The scissor aerial jacks use criss-cross braces to stretch and extend upwards. There is a platform attached to the top of the braces that rises simultaneously as the criss-cross braces raise.

Cherry pickers and bucket lift trucks are another version of the aerial lift. Usually, they contain a bucket at the end of a long arm and as the arm unfolds, the attached bucket platform rises. Forklifts use a pronged arm that rises upwards as the lever is moved. Boom hoists have a hydraulic arm which extends outward and elevates the platform. All of these aerial lift trucks call for special training to operate.

Through the Occupational Safety & Health Association, also labeled OSHA, education programs are offered to help make sure the workers satisfy occupational principles for safety, system operation, inspection and upkeep and machine weight capacities. Employees receive certification upon completion of the course and only OSHA qualified employees should operate aerial platform lifts. The Occupational Safety & Health Organization has formed rules to maintain safety and prevent injury when using aerial lift trucks. Common sense rules such as not using this piece of equipment to give rides and ensuring all tires on aerial lift trucks are braced so as to hinder machine tipping are mentioned within the guidelines.

Unfortunately, statistics reveal that more than 20 aerial hoist operators die each year when operating and almost ten percent of those are commercial painters. The majority of these mishaps were caused by inadequate tie bracing, therefore some of these might have been prevented. Operators should make sure that all wheels are locked and braces as a critical security precaution to stop the device from toppling over.

Marking the encompassing area with observable markers need to be utilized to safeguard would-be passers-by in order that they do not come near the lift. Additionally, markings must be placed at about 10 feet of clearance between any electrical lines and the aerial lift. Lift operators must at all times be properly harnessed to the lift while up in the air.