## Cambridge Aerial Lift Safety Training

Cambridge Aerial Lift Safety Training - There are approximately 26 to 30 construction deaths within North America due to the utilization of aerial lifts. Most of those killed are craftsmen like electrical workers, laborers, painters, carpenters or ironworkers. Nearly all deaths are caused by tip-overs, electrocutions and falls. The greatest hazard is from boom-supported lifts, such as bucket trucks and cherry pickers. The majority of the fatalities are related to this particular type of lift, with the rest involving scissor lifts. Other risks include being struck by falling objects, being thrown out of a bucket, and being caught between the guardrail or lift bucket and a thing, such as a joist or steel beam.

To be able to operate an aerial lift safely, perform an inspection on the following things prior to using the device: emergency and operating controls, safety devices (like for instance, outriggers and guardrails), personal fall protection gear, and tires and wheels. Inspect for possible leaks in the air, fuel-system, hydraulic fluid. Check the device for missing or loose parts.

The areas where worker would utilize the aerial device must be inspected carefully for possible dangers, like for instance bumps, holes, debris and drop-offs. Overhead powerlines need to be monitored and avoided. It is suggested that aerial lift devices be utilized on surfaces that are stable and level. Do not work on steep slopes that exceed slope limits specified by the manufacturer. Even on a slope which is level, wheel chocks, outriggers and brakes must be set.

Employers are needed to provide maintenance mechanics and aerial lift operators with the proper instruction manuals. Mechanics and operators have to be trained by a qualified person experienced with the applicable aerial lift model.

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

If proper procedures are followed, electrocutions are preventable. Stay at least ten feet away from whichever power lines and qualified electricians must insulate and/or de-energize power lines. Workers need to make use of personal protective tools and equipment, like insulated bucket. However, a bucket which is insulated does not protect from electrocution if, for instance, the worker touches another wire providing a path to the ground.

Falls are preventable if the worker remains secure inside guardrails or in the bucket by utilizing a full-body harness or a positioning device. If there is an anchorage in the bucket, a positioning belt with a short lanyard is acceptable.

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