Aerial Lifts

Aerial platform lifts might be utilized to accomplish several distinctive tasks performed in hard to reach aerial spaces. Some of the tasks associated with this style of jack include performing routine repair on buildings with high ceilings, repairing phone and power cables, raising heavy shelving units, and trimming tree branches. A ladder might also be utilized for many of the aforementioned jobs, although aerial lifts provide more security and stability when correctly used.

There are many designs of aerial lifts accessible on the market depending on what the task needed involves. Painters often use scissor aerial lifts for instance, which are categorized as mobile scaffolding, effective in painting trim and reaching the 2nd story and higher on buildings. The scissor aerial platform lifts use criss-cross braces to stretch out and enlarge upwards. There is a platform attached to the top of the braces that rises simultaneously as the criss-cross braces elevate.

Bucket trucks and cherry pickers are a different variety of aerial hoist. They contain a bucket platform on top of a long arm. As this arm unfolds, the attached platform rises. Forklifts utilize a pronged arm that rises upwards as the handle is moved. Boom lift trucks have a hydraulic arm that extends outward and elevates the platform. All of these aerial platform lifts call for special training to operate.

Through the Occupational Safety & Health Association, also called OSHA, training programs are on hand to help make certain the workforce satisfy occupational standards for safety, system operation, inspection and upkeep and machine load capacities. Employees receive qualifications upon completion of the classes and only OSHA certified employees should run aerial lifts. The Occupational Safety & Health Organization has established guidelines to maintain safety and prevent injury when using aerial lift trucks. Common sense rules such as not utilizing this machine to give rides and ensuring all tires on aerial lift trucks are braced so as to prevent machine tipping are referred to within the rules.

Regrettably, statistics show that more than 20 operators pass away each year while working with aerial platform lifts and 8% of those are commercial painters. Most of these mishaps are due to inappropriate tire bracing and the lift falling over; for that reason many of these deaths had been preventable. Operators should make certain that all wheels are locked and braces as a critical security precaution to stop the instrument from toppling over.

Other guidelines include marking the surrounding area of the device in an observable way to safeguard passers-by and to ensure they do not approach too close to the operating machine. It is imperative to ensure that there are also 10 feet of clearance among any electrical lines and the aerial hoist. Operators of this machinery are also highly recommended to always wear the proper safety harness when up in the air.