



ACCESSING SAFETY KNOWLEDGE (ASK) SHEET: *FORKLIFT AND AERIAL WORK PLATFORM (AWP) TRAINING*

In the past there were no rules as to who could operate aerial work platforms (boom lifts and scissor lifts) or forklifts. Too often this meant a person unfamiliar with these machines would use them, sometimes with disastrous endings.

Examples of Problems Which Could Arise From an Untrained Operator

The most common cause of injury on an aerial work platform is crushing of hands. This is caused by operating the controls in the wrong order. The most frequent cause of death is electrocution. Electricity arcs at different distances based on the amount of voltage. An operator must know or find out the voltage of power lines and maintain the required clearance to keep from being electrocuted. Tip over is another major cause of injuries in an Aerial Work Platforms because of the operator not operating on a firm level surface.

If an operator does not know how to read a load chart on a reach forklift the load could cause the forklift to tip over on the front side. The load chart is a combination of the weight of the load and the extension of the load. On the boom of a reach forklift the distance a load is lifted is shown with letters on the boom. A load carried too high in the air on an uneven surface could cause the forklift to tip over on its side. Using the controls in an incorrect order could cause the load to be dumped.

Two Types of Training:

1) **Aerial Work Platform**: To operate an Aerial Work Platform a person must be trained. You can find information concerning this training in the ANSI Responsibility Manual A92.6.5.7 and A92.6.6.11.1. You may also reach out to the manufacture or your supplier of Aerial Work Platforms for training requirements. At the completion of the training the trainer will issue a card to the operator which must be carried with the operator while operating an Aerial Work Platform. This training is valid for four years. Once an operator has been through the training and if his/her card expires and the operator is still employed by the same company he /she will not have to complete the class room portion of the training again to be issued a valid training card. The operator will only have to complete the hands on portion of the training to be re-familiarized with the particular unit that he / she will be operating.

2) **Forklift (Any Class Lift)**: To operate a forklift a person must complete certification training and will have an operator certification card issued to the operator after completing and passing the course. The operator must possess this card while operating a forklift. You can find information concerning requirements for the trainer and training in the OSHA Standards for the Construction Industry in section 1910.178 - Powered industrial trucks. You may also reach out to the manufacture and your local supplier in regards to this training.

These standards are the minimum requirements for the operation of Aerial Work Platforms and Forklifts of any capacity. Many companies have more stringent requirements and they must be followed on their property and jobsites. For example: ANSI requires the use of a government approved harness and lanyard in a Self-Propelled and or Trailer Mounted boom lift, but not in a Scissor Lift. Most companies require the use of a government approved harness in all types of Aerial lifts. Some companies require the operator to lower the Aerial Lift before the operator travels with the unit. This is safer than traveling while the lift is elevated however it is not a requirement from ANSI/SAIA or OSHA.

Operator training is not only the right thing to do, it is required by law. Even the most experienced workers are surprised at what they learn in a training class. Be sure your people are trained, you retain the proper documentation and your worker carries their training card with them while operating.

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