

## Grande Prairie Aerial Platform Training

Grande Prairie Aerial Platform Training - Aerial lift trucks can be used to accomplish certain unique duties executed in hard to reach aerial spaces. A few of the odd jobs associated with this kind of jack include performing daily maintenance on structures with prominent ceilings, repairing telephone and power cables, raising heavy shelving units, and trimming tree branches. A ladder might also be used for some of the aforementioned tasks, although aerial hoists offer more safety and stability when correctly used.

There are a handful of different models of aerial hoists available, each being capable of performing moderately different tasks. Painters will often use a scissor lift platform, which is able to be used to reach the 2nd story of buildings. The scissor aerial jacks use criss-cross braces to stretch and lengthen 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 trucks are another variety of the aerial hoist. Normally, they contain a bucket at the end of a long arm and as the arm unfolds, the attached bucket lift rises. Forklifts utilize a pronged arm that rises upwards as the lever is moved. Boom hoists have a hydraulic arm that extends outward and raises the platform. All of these aerial lift trucks require special training to operate.

Through the Occupational Safety & Health Association, also labeled OSHA, instruction courses are offered to help make certain the employees meet occupational values for safety, machine operation, inspection and repair and machine cargo capacities. Workers receive qualifications upon completion of the course and only OSHA qualified employees should run aerial lifts. The Occupational Safety & Health Organization has established rules to maintain safety and prevent injury while utilizing aerial hoists. Common sense rules such as not using this piece of equipment to give rides and ensuring all tires on aerial lifts are braced in order to hinder machine tipping are noted within the rules.

Sadly, data illustrate that over 20 operators pass away each year when running aerial lift trucks and 8% of those are commercial painters. Most of these incidents are due to inadequate tire bracing and the lift falling over; for that reason several of these deaths were preventable. Operators should ensure that all wheels are locked and braces as a critical security precaution to prevent the instrument from toppling over.

Marking the surrounding area with visible markers need to be used to safeguard would-be passers-by so that they do not come near the lift. Additionally, markings should be set at about 10 feet of clearance between any utility cables and the aerial hoist. Hoist operators should at all times be well harnessed to the hoist when up in the air.