



TOOLBOX TALKS

Focus Four Fall Hazards Toolbox Talk #4

How do we prevent falls from aerial lifts ?

[Ask the following questions and give time for answers]

What are the hazards? Falls due to work with aerial lifts

What are the results? Broken bones, internal damage, death

What should we look for? Equipment damaged or used other than intended, untrained operators, lack of fall protection, overloaded equipment, workers standing on guardrails, ladders on the platform, unlevel or unstable surface, improper driving

[Here is an example or use one from your own experience]

Actual Incident: Two workers were in a boom supported elevated work platform working on the underside of a bridge and over an open roadway. The work platform was lowered into an oncoming lane of traffic and collided with a box truck. The victim, whose fall protection was not attached, was ejected from the work platform and was thrown approximately 50 feet horizontally landing on railroad tracks approximately 48 feet below. He died of his injuries at a local hospital.

What to Do While Operating an Aerial Lift

Fall Protection:

- Ensure that access gates or openings are closed.
- Stand firmly on the floor of the bucket or lift platform.
- Do not climb on or lean over guardrails or handrails.
- Do not use planks, ladders, or other devices as a working position.
- Use a body harness with personal fall arrest or fall restraint system attached to the boom or bucket.
- Do not tie-off or belt-off to adjacent structures or poles while in the bucket.



Source: IUOE National Training Fund



OSHA and our construction industry partners, such as the Mid-Atlantic Construction Safety Council, have initiated a “Focus Four Hazards” campaign throughout OSHA’s Region III’s jurisdiction. The goal of this campaign is to raise awareness in the recognition, evaluation, and control of these hazards. Focus Four Hazards account for the vast majority of injuries and fatalities in the construction industry.





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How do we prevent falls from aerial lifts ? (continued)

[Ask the following questions about lifts used on this site and ensure every item is covered]

Let's talk about this site now.

- ◆ How many workers using aerial lifts have not received formal training on safe operation?
- ◆ How do you sign up for training?
- ◆ Demonstrate how to inspect equipment (move group to equipment for demo).
- ◆ Is fall protection available for use with aerial lifts?

[Record questions below that you want to ask about this site.]



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