

# HAZARD ALERT

CPWR  
THE CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION  
RESEARCH AND TRAINING

# AERIAL LIFTS

HF&C  
HAYLOR, FREYER & COON<sup>SM</sup>  
Insuring All You Value

## If used right...

Aerial lifts allow you to move yourself and your tools exactly to the spot where you need to work, even if it's more than 100' in the air.

If used properly, an aerial lift can help you reduce the risks for back, neck and shoulder injuries caused by working at or above shoulder level.



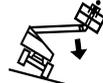
PHOTO: KANSAS CITY STAR, 2009

But all lifts are different. The down lever on one can be the up lever on another model.

## A problem can be catastrophic

An aerial lift that comes in contact with a power line or is setup on uneven ground can be deadly.

Major causes of death are...

- **Electrocution** 
- **Falls** 
- **Tipovers** 

**Construction workers die each year from using aerial lifts.**

**To learn more visit:  
[www.stopconstructionfalls.com](http://www.stopconstructionfalls.com)**

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**call 301-578-8500**

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**[www.cpwr.com](http://www.cpwr.com)**

## Before you use the lift ...



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### 1 Get training

Your employer must make sure every lift operator is trained by a qualified person experienced with the model of aerial lift being used. Once trained, follow the manufacturers' rules.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MILLER® FALL PROTECTION

### 2 Wear a full body harness

If your lift is struck by another vehicle, you can be thrown from the lift and killed. Using proper fall protection will keep you from a serious or fatal fall. You must use a suitable lanyard attached to an engineered anchor in the basket or on the boom, not a guardrail.



### 3 Check for overhead power lines

The most frequent cause of death to a worker in a lift is electrocution. Trees can hide power lines. Do a **pre-job walk-thru to look for obstructions**. Unless you are a qualified electrical worker, **stay a minimum of 10' away from all power lines**.

#### A world of bad ideas ...

Getting the job done quickly is no reason to take deadly short cuts. Stay away from these "quick fixes" to a problem:

- Standing on guardrail
- Overloading man lift
- Placing a ladder or scaffold on lift
- Climbing out of the basket

#### Instead, follow these procedures:

- Inspect the lift safety devices before using.
- Make sure the base unit controls are working properly so that someone on the ground can lower the lift if the operator is unable to work the controls.
- Don't modify the lift without the manufacturer's permission.
- Know the Safe Floor Load Capacity before driving onto the floor/slab.

**If you think you are in danger:**

**Contact your supervisor.  
Contact your union.**

**Call OSHA  
1-800-321-OSHA**