Kingston Aerial Lift Safety Training

Kingston Aerial Lift Safety Training - Each and every year, there are about 26 construction deaths due to the use of aerial lifts. Most of the craftsmen killed are laborers, electrical workers, carpenters, painters or ironworkers. The majority of the fatalities are caused by electrocutions, falls and tip-overs. The greatest danger is from boom-supported lifts, such as bucket trucks and cherry pickers. The majority of the fatalities are related to this particular kind of lift, with the rest involving scissor lifts. Other hazards comprise being thrown out of a bucket, being struck by falling things, and being caught between the lift bucket or guardrail and an object, like a joist or steel beam.

The safe operation of an aerial lift requires an inspection on the following items before utilizing the device: emergency and operating controls, personal fall protection gear, safety devices, and wheels and tires. Inspect for possible leaks in the air, fuel-system, hydraulic fluid. Check the device for missing or loose components.

The area where the device would be utilized should be thoroughly examined for possible hazards, like for instance bumps, holes, drop-offs and debris. Overhead power lines should be closely monitored or avoided. It is suggested that aerial lift devices be utilized on surfaces that are level and stable. Don't work on steep slopes that go beyond slope limits specified by the manufacturer. Even on a slope which is level, outriggers, brakes and wheel chocks must be set.

Companies should provide their aerial lift operators with the correct guidebooks. Mechanics and operators need to be trained by a certified person experienced with the applicable aerial lift model.

Aerial Lift Safety Guidelines:
o Close lift platform chains or doors prior to operating.
o Do not lean over or climb on guardrails. Stand on the platform or floor of the bucket.
o Make use of the provided manufacturer's load-capacity restrictions.
o Utilize work-zone warnings, like for example cones and signs, when working near traffic.

Electrocutions are preventable if safety procedures are followed. Stay as far away from power lines - at least 10 feet. Qualified electrical workers must insulate and/or de-energize power lines. Individuals working should make use of personal protective tools and equipment, such as insulated bucket. However, a bucket which is insulated does not protect from electrocution if, for instance, the worker touches another wire providing a path to the ground.

Falls are preventable if the individual working remains secure inside guardrails or in the bucket by using a full-body harness or a positioning device. If there is an anchorage in the bucket, a positioning belt with a short lanyard is acceptable.

Tip-overs are preventable by following the manufacturer's directions. Unless the manufacturer specifies otherwise, never drive while the lift platform is elevated. Adhere to the vertical and horizontal reach limitations of the device, and never go beyond the load-capacity that is specified.