Aerial Lift Safety Toolbox Talk

A ready-to-run 5-minute crew talk · Aerial Lifts / MEWPs · 29 CFR 1926.453 & 1910.67 · ANSI A92

SafetyVideos.com
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How to run this talk (5 minutes): Gather everyone who operates, rides, or works near aerial lifts before the shift. Read each talking point aloud, then ask the discussion questions and let the crew answer. Close with the one rule, walk the work zone if you can, and pass the sign-in sheet on page 2. This is an awareness refresher — it does **not** replace the trained-or-authorized operation, equipment-specific familiarization, and demonstrated proper use your employer must ensure.

Before You Go Up: Two Inspections

- **Inspect the lift every shift.** Check fluids, tires, battery/charger, controls, horn, gauges, lights and alarms, steering and brakes, the guardrails, gates, and safety devices. A lift with any defect is removed from service until a qualified person repairs it — not operated.
- **Inspect the work zone too.** Look for drop-offs, holes, slopes, and soft ground; overhead power lines, beams, ducts, and pipes; and weather like wind or rain. Reduce or remove hazards before you set up.
- **Know the load limit.** Add your weight plus tools, equipment, and any other occupants — never exceed the lift's rated capacity.

Set Up on Solid, Level Ground

- Position the lift on a firm, level surface. If it has outriggers or stabilizers, set them on solid ground — use pads outdoors if needed.
- Make sure guardrails are secure and access gates are latched shut before raising the platform.
- **Control falling objects at the source:** secure tools and materials, use required toeboards, screens, guardrails, or a canopy, and **barricade the drop zone and keep people out of it**. Provide hard hats to anyone who remains exposed — cones or tape plus hard hats alone don't make it safe to work below the lift.

Fall Protection & Working Aloft

- **Wear and anchor your fall protection.** Inspect the harness and lanyard for cuts or fraying first — damaged gear is removed from service. Attach the lanyard to the manufacturer's approved anchor point **on the lift**, never to an adjacent structure.
- Stand with both feet flat on the platform floor. Don't sit or climb on the rails, and never use ladders, planks, or stools on the platform to extend your reach.
- Never override hydraulic, mechanical, electrical, or pneumatic safety devices.

Power Lines, Tip-Overs & Moving

- **Treat overhead lines as energized** unless the owner/operator confirms deenergized and visibly grounded. Under the general-industry rule, keep an unqualified person — and the longest conductive object they may contact — at least **10 feet** from an unguarded, energized line at 50 kV to ground or below; more above 50 kV. If the clearance can't be kept, **stop work** and arrange deenergizing, relocation, or guarding.
- **Prevent tip-overs:** never exceed the load limit, place the lift properly, and use outriggers on stable ground.
- Don't move the lift with the platform raised unless it's specifically designed for it. Obey speed limits and always give pedestrians the right of way.

Discussion — Ask the Crew

1. Before we go up, what do we check on the lift *and* in the work area — and what would make us tag a lift out of service?
2. Where do you attach your fall-protection lanyard — and where should you never attach it?
3. What's our minimum distance from overhead power lines, and what do we do if we can't keep it?
4. If someone on a raised platform got stuck, hurt, or was left hanging, what is our written rescue plan right now?

The one rule to remember today: The workers hurt on aerial lifts are the ones who **fell**, who touched a **power line**, or who rode a **tip-over**. Clip your harness to the lift, keep 10 feet from power lines, and stay inside your load limit on solid ground.

This talk is a refresher, not qualification. Federal OSHA (29 CFR 1926.453 / 1910.67) requires aerial lifts to be operated only by trained or authorized workers who can demonstrate proper use, following the manufacturer's instructions; employers following ANSI/SAIA A92 also apply its safe-use and training requirements (familiarization, evaluation, rescue planning, documentation). The **Aerial Lift Certification Kit** gives you the full video (available in English or Spanish), the quiz and answer key, a practical assessment form, wallet cards, certificates, and a pre-shift inspection sheet — reusable for every new hire. **SafetyVideos.com/Aerial_Lift_Safety_Training_Video_p/1015g.htm**

Toolbox Talk Sign-In Sheet

Attendance record · Aerial Lift Safety Toolbox Talk · 29 CFR 1926.453 / 1910.67

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Date _____ Location / Facility _____ Presented by _____

#	Name (print)	Signature	Job title / Department
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By signing above, each attendee acknowledges they participated in this aerial lift safety toolbox talk on the date shown. Retain this sheet with your training records. **Note:** attendance at a toolbox talk is not operator certification — keep it with, not in place of, each operator's formal training and evaluation records under 29 CFR 1926.453 / 1910.67 and ANSI A92.