

Scissor Lift Safety Toolbox Talk

A ready-to-run 5-minute crew talk · Scissor Lifts / MEWPs (Group A) · OSHA 29 CFR 1926.451/.452 & 1910 · ANSI A92.20/.22/.24

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How to run this talk (5 minutes): Gather everyone who operates, rides, or works near scissor 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 training, equipment-specific familiarization, and demonstrated proper use your employer must ensure.

Before You Go Up: Two Inspections

- **Complete the manufacturer's pre-start inspection every shift.** Check fluids, tires and wheels, battery and charger, controls, power system, guardrails, gates, and safety devices. When the construction-scaffold rule applies, a **competent person** must inspect for visible defects before each shift and after anything that could affect structural integrity. A lift with a defect affecting safe operation is removed from service — not operated.
- **Inspect the work zone too.** Indoors, look for low ceilings, beams, rafters, ducts, and pipes overhead and clutter on the floor. Outdoors, check for slopes, holes, ditches, soft ground, overhead lines, and the weather.
- **Know the load limit.** Add your weight plus tools, equipment, and any other occupants — the total must stay under the lift's rated capacity on the information plate.

Set Up on Solid, Level Ground

- Set up only on a firm, level surface within the manufacturer's limits. Use **manufacturer-approved** outriggers, stabilizers, pads, or cribbing where specified; correct unsuitable ground through the employer's authorized site-preparation process — never improvise supports or level the lift with loose material.
- Make sure guardrails are secure and the access gate is closed and latched before raising the platform. MEWPs designed to current ANSI/SAIA A92.20 use a compliant gate rather than a chain — don't alter or retrofit an existing platform without manufacturer approval.
- **Control falling objects at the source:** secure tools and materials, use required toeboards or screens, and keep people out of the drop zone with an effective barricade. Provide hard hats to anyone still exposed, and select protective footwear from the employer's hazard assessment — don't rely on PPE alone.

Fall Protection & Working Aloft

- **A compliant guardrail system generally provides the required fall protection.** Confirm the rails are in position and undamaged and the gate is latched before the platform goes up. Use personal restraint or fall-arrest equipment only when required by the employer's hazard assessment and permitted by the manufacturer — inspect it first; damaged gear is removed from service.
- If you wear a lanyard, anchor it to the manufacturer's approved point **on the lift**, never to an adjacent structure — a moving lift could pull you off the platform.
- Keep both feet on the platform floor. Never lean, sit, or climb on the rails, and never use ladders, planks, stools, or improvised bridges to gain height or reach. Reposition the lift, or use a manufacturer-provided extension deck only within its operating, occupancy, load, and travel limits.

Power Lines, Tip-Overs & Crushing

- **Determine the governing overhead-line rule before setup.** Under general industry, 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 (construction-scaffold rules have their own table). If clearance can't be kept, **stop** and arrange deenergizing/grounding, relocation, or protection with the utility.
- **Prevent tip-overs:** stay within load and occupancy limits, use firm, level support within the manufacturer's limits, keep clear of holes, drop-offs, slopes, bumps, and debris, obey wind and weather restrictions, and travel elevated only when the manufacturer permits it.
- **Watch for crushing.** Running into low ceilings, beams, or overhead structures can crush a worker against them — keep your eyes up when raising or repositioning.

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. How do we calculate our load, and where do we find this lift's rated capacity?
3. What's our minimum distance from overhead power lines, and what do we do if we can't keep it?
4. If a worker 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 scissor lifts are the ones who **fell**, who rode a **tip-over**, or who were **crushed** against something overhead. Keep the rails up and the gate latched, stay inside your load limit on solid ground, and keep 10 feet from power lines.

This talk is a refresher, not qualification. Many scissor lifts are covered by OSHA scaffold and walking-working-surface rules (general industry 29 CFR 1910.27/.28/.29; construction 1926.451/.452(w)/.454). Only trained workers may operate the lift, and the employer must ensure demonstrated proper use; employers following ANSI/SAIA A92 apply A92.22 (safe use) and A92.24 (training) with documented familiarization and evaluation. The **Scissor Lift Certification Kit** gives you the full video (available in English or Spanish), the quiz and answer key, a customizable slide deck, a practical assessment form, wallet cards, certificates, and a pre-shift inspection sheet — reusable for every new hire. [SafetyVideos.com/Scissor_Lift_Safety_Training_Video_p/1021g.htm](https://www.safetyvideos.com/Scissor_Lift_Safety_Training_Video_p/1021g.htm)

Toolbox Talk Sign-In Sheet

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 scissor 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 OSHA 29 CFR 1926.451/.452 and ANSI A92.20.