



AERIAL WORK

Boom Lifts, Aerial Lifts and Scissor Lifts

**POLICY
STANDARD**

Only trained and authorized employees may operate or work from aerial equipment. Manufacturer instructions and the site-specific hazard assessment control the work.

PHEIFER BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.

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USE OF THIS POLICY

This policy establishes minimum company expectations. The manufacturer, OSHA, the project owner or a site-specific plan may require additional protection. Employees must stop work whenever actual conditions differ from the plan.

Primary Standards

- 29 CFR 1926.453 - Aerial lifts
- 29 CFR 1926.451, 1926.452 and 1926.454 - Scaffolds and scissor lifts
- 29 CFR 1926 Subpart M - Fall protection
- 29 CFR 1926 Subpart CC - Cranes and derricks, when applicable
- Manufacturer operating instructions and equipment limitations

1. Purpose, Scope and Responsibilities

Purpose and Scope

Pheifer Brothers will select, inspect and operate aerial equipment to prevent falls, tip-overs, crushing, electrocution, struck-by incidents and unintended movement. This policy applies to boom-supported aerial lifts, articulating and telescoping lifts, trailer-mounted lifts, personnel lifts and scissor lifts used at jobsites, yards and shops.

Only trained and authorized employees may operate or occupy aerial equipment. Equipment must be used according to the manufacturer's instructions, its rated capacity, applicable OSHA requirements and current worksite conditions.

Management and Project Management

- Provide suitable equipment, required fall protection and manufacturer information.
- Ensure operators are trained, evaluated and authorized for the equipment used.
- Plan work near traffic, power lines, bridge edges, excavations and water.
- Provide emergency-lowering and rescue arrangements before elevated work begins.

Foremen and Competent Persons

- Complete or verify the site and task hazard assessment.
- Confirm inspections, ground support, barricades and rescue provisions.
- Control simultaneous work above, below and around the lift.
- Stop work when conditions, equipment or employee actions are unsafe.

Operators and Occupants

- Inspect the lift and required PPE before use.
- Follow capacity, slope, wind, travel and fall-protection requirements.
- Keep gates closed and remain on the platform floor.
- Report defects and stop immediately if safe operation is uncertain.

STOP-WORK AUTHORITY

Every employee may stop aerial work when protection is missing, conditions change or the planned method cannot be followed.

2. Training, Authorization and Equipment Selection

Operator Training and Authorization

Training must combine formal instruction with hands-on practice and an evaluation of the employee's ability to operate the specific equipment type safely. Authorization applies only to equipment for which the employee has demonstrated competence.

- Controls, emergency controls and safety devices
- Manufacturer instructions, warnings and operating limitations
- Pre-use and workplace inspections
- Fall, tip-over, crushing, electrical and struck-by hazards
- Capacity, load distribution, slope and wind limits
- Travel, positioning, stabilization and shutdown
- Required fall protection and anchor-point use
- Emergency lowering, communication and rescue

Retraining is required after unsafe operation, an incident or near miss, assignment to significantly different equipment, or a change in workplace conditions that affects safe use.

Selecting the Correct Equipment

CONDITION	SELECTION CONSIDERATION
Vertical access on firm, level surface	Scissor lift may be appropriate when horizontal outreach is not needed.
Work requiring outreach or access around an obstruction	Use an articulating or telescoping boom lift with adequate capacity and reach.
Soft, sloped or uneven terrain	Use equipment specifically rated for the terrain; verify slope and ground-bearing limits.
Bridge deck, temporary platform or structure	Verify structural capacity for the lift, occupants, materials and dynamic loads.
Live traffic, power lines or water	Select equipment only after site-specific controls and emergency response are established.

Workplace Assessment

Before positioning the lift, evaluate holes, drop-offs, excavations, bridge edges, slopes, soft ground, overhead obstructions, power lines, traffic, wind, falling objects, pedestrian access and rescue access. The assessment must be repeated when the lift moves or conditions change.

3. Inspection, Setup and General Operation

Pre-Use Inspection

- Operating and emergency controls
- Guardrails, gates and platform floor
- Tires, wheels, outriggers and stabilizers
- Hydraulic, electrical and fuel systems
- Alarms, horns, lights and interlocks
- Fall-protection anchor points
- Emergency-lowering system
- Structural members, pins, welds and fasteners
- Capacity, warning and control labels
- Required manuals and inspection records

A defect affecting safe operation requires the lift to be tagged out and removed from service until repaired and released by an authorized person.

Setup

- Use a firm surface capable of supporting all imposed loads.
- Level the equipment within manufacturer limits; deploy outriggers and stabilizers as required.
- Set brakes and use wheel chocks when required.
- Barricade the operating area and protect the lift from traffic and equipment.
- Verify overhead and side clearances through the full range of movement.
- Establish a trained ground person when rescue, traffic, blind movement or site conditions require one.

General Operating Rules

- Keep gates closed and both feet on the platform floor.
- Do not stand on rails or use ladders, buckets, planks or makeshift devices for added height.
- Include occupants, tools and materials when calculating platform load.
- Secure tools and materials; keep the platform free of trip hazards.
- Do not bypass alarms, interlocks, guardrails or safety devices.
- Do not use the lift as a crane unless it is designed and approved for that purpose.
- Lower and secure the platform before leaving equipment unattended.

4. Boom-Supported Aerial Lifts

Fall Protection

Each employee in an extensible or articulating boom platform must wear a properly fitted full-body harness connected to the manufacturer-designated anchor point with an approved lanyard or self-retracting device. The system must be arranged to minimize free fall and prevent ejection.

CONNECT HERE

Use only the anchor point identified by the lift manufacturer. Guardrails are not anchor points unless specifically designed and labeled for that purpose.

Required Practices

- Inspect the harness, connector and anchor before each use.
- Remain connected whenever the platform is occupied and elevated.
- Position the boom to avoid swing falls and contact with structures.
- Maintain clearances from beams, diaphragms, signs and overhead members.
- Use smooth, controlled movements and account for platform tail swing.
- Travel with the boom elevated only when the manufacturer permits it and the route has been assessed.
- Use a spotter when the operator cannot see clearances, traffic or the direction of travel.

Prohibited Practices

- Do not connect to an adjacent structure while remaining in the platform.
- Do not attach fall protection to platform rails unless they are designated anchors.
- Do not climb, sit or stand on guardrails.
- Do not exit or enter an elevated platform unless the manufacturer permits it and a written procedure provides continuous fall protection.
- Do not use the boom to push, pull or support a structure.
- Do not place the platform where the employee can be crushed against an overhead obstruction.

Crushing and Entrapment

Before elevating, identify overhead beams, girders, diaphragms and other pinch points. Approach obstructions slowly, avoid driving while looking away from the direction of movement, and use available secondary guarding or sensing devices as intended. Stop immediately if visibility or clearance is uncertain.

5. Scissor Lifts

Scissor lifts are mobile supported scaffold work platforms. Their primary fall protection is a complete and functional guardrail system. Employees must remain inside the rails and keep both feet on the platform floor.

Fall Protection

- Keep the gate or entry chain closed while the platform is occupied.
- Do not lean beyond, climb or stand on the guardrails.
- Use personal fall restraint or fall arrest when required by the manufacturer, project rules or the competent person's hazard assessment.
- Connect only to a manufacturer-approved anchor point.
- Never tie the platform to an adjacent structure.

Stability and Positioning

- Use the lift on a firm, level surface within manufacturer slope limits.
- Maintain safe clearance from holes, bridge edges, excavations and drop-offs.
- Set brakes and deploy outriggers or stabilizers when provided.
- Do not elevate on trailers, trucks, scaffolds or temporary supports.
- Do not use near moving traffic unless the lift is protected by the approved traffic-control plan.
- Account for wind loading from signs, panels, tarps and large materials.

Travel While Elevated

Travel with the platform elevated only when the manufacturer permits it. Before movement, verify the travel surface, slope, clearance, pedestrian separation and route. Occupants must remain within the platform, and movement must stop if the operator loses sight of the spotter or route.

Material Handling

Materials must fit within the platform and remain below safe handling limits. Do not rest materials on guardrails or allow them to extend where they can contact structures, traffic or power lines. Use manufacturer-approved material racks when provided.

NEVER GAIN HEIGHT

Do not place a ladder, box, plank, bucket or other object on the platform to increase working height.

6. Power Lines, Traffic, Weather and Special Conditions

Electrical and Power-Line Hazards

- Identify overhead and concealed electrical hazards before setup or travel.
- Treat every line as energized unless the utility confirms it is deenergized and visibly grounded.
- Maintain the minimum approach distance required for the voltage and operation; never default to an assumed 10 feet without completing the required assessment.
- Account for boom movement, platform position, load movement and wind.
- Do not rely on tires, fiberglass components or warning devices as electrical insulation.
- If contact occurs, the operator should remain on the equipment unless fire or another immediate emergency requires evacuation; keep others away and contact the utility and emergency services.

Traffic and Equipment

- Coordinate aerial work with the approved public and internal traffic-control plans.
- Use barriers, channelizing devices, spotters or positive protection appropriate to the exposure.
- Do not position employees between the lift and moving traffic, equipment or a fixed object without an escape route.
- Wear the high-visibility apparel required by the PPE Plan.
- Stop work after a traffic intrusion or impact until the lift and controls are inspected.

Weather and Visibility

- Do not operate above manufacturer wind limits.
- Stop for lightning, severe weather, unstable ground or visibility that prevents safe operation.
- Remove ice, snow, mud and water from the platform and access points.
- At night, provide lighting that reveals controls, edges and obstructions without blinding the operator or motorists.

Bridge Edges and Water

Evaluate bridge-edge fall clearance, platform positioning, traffic below and rescue access. When a drowning hazard remains, provide the required U.S. Coast Guard-approved PFD and water-rescue equipment. A PFD does not replace required fall protection.

7. Emergency Lowering, Rescue, Maintenance and Records

Emergency Planning

Before elevated work begins, the crew must know how to lower the platform, summon help and rescue an employee without creating another victim. Calling 911 is part of the plan, but the project must also account for access and the time needed to reach an elevated or suspended employee.

- Identify the ground controls and verify they function.
- Assign a person familiar with emergency lowering when conditions require one.
- Keep ground controls and rescue access unobstructed.
- Identify the exact project location and who will meet emergency responders.
- Plan for equipment failure, operator illness, fall arrest, entrapment, electrical contact and work over water.
- Do not climb the boom or improvise a rescue without proper training and protection.

Maintenance and Energy Control

Only qualified and authorized employees may repair aerial equipment. Before maintenance, lower or block elevated components, isolate hazardous energy and follow the company Lockout/Tagout Program. Never rely solely on hydraulic pressure to support a platform or boom.

Transport and Storage

- Lower, stow and secure booms and platforms before transport.
- Use manufacturer-approved tie-down points and loading procedures.
- Verify trailer, ramp and towing capacity.
- Store equipment with controls secured against unauthorized use.
- Protect batteries, chargers, fuel systems and hydraulic components from damage.

Records

Maintain operator training and authorization, pre-use inspections, maintenance and repair records, periodic inspections, incident reports, and site-specific plans as required by company policy, the manufacturer and applicable standards.

Stop-Work Conditions

Stop and lower the platform when a safety device fails, required fall protection is missing, wind or weather is unsafe, the lift becomes unstable, power-line clearance cannot be maintained, traffic control is inadequate, overhead crushing is possible, communication is lost, or rescue arrangements are unavailable.

8. Test Your Knowledge

Circle the best answer. Review any missed question with your foreman before operating or working from aerial equipment.

1. Who may operate an aerial or scissor lift? A. Any employee B. Trained and authorized employees C. Only foremen	2. Where must a boom-lift occupant connect fall protection? A. Any guardrail B. An adjacent bridge member C. The manufacturer-designated anchor
3. What is the primary fall protection on a scissor lift? A. Complete guardrails B. A warning line C. A spotter	4. May a ladder be placed in a lift platform for added height? A. Yes, if tied B. No C. Only below 10 feet
5. What must happen if a safety-critical defect is found? A. Finish the shift B. Operate slowly C. Tag out and remove the lift from service	6. When may a scissor lift travel while elevated? A. Whenever the operator chooses B. Only when permitted by the manufacturer and conditions are assessed C. Never under any circumstance
7. What should happen if the operator loses sight of the spotter? A. Stop movement B. Sound the horn and continue C. Speed up	8. Are tires or fiberglass lift components reliable electrical insulation? A. Yes B. Only when dry C. No
9. Does a PFD replace fall protection over water? A. Yes B. No C. Only at night	10. What must be planned before elevated work begins? A. Emergency lowering and rescue B. Lunch location only C. Equipment color

EMPLOYEE: _____

DATE: _____

ANSWER KEY: 1-B | 2-C | 3-A | 4-B | 5-C | 6-B | 7-A | 8-C | 9-B | 10-A