Aerial Lifts in Live Entertainment

Protect Yourself!

Aerial lifts commonly used in Live Entertainment include telescoping mast and scissor-type machines, and are used to access lighting, sound, scenery, and other production elements. Employers are responsible for training their employees in the proper use of this equipment, and must take appropriate measures to enforce the safe use of aerial lifts by their employees. The major causes of injuries and fatalities involving these machines are falls, electrocutions, and tip-overs.

General Safe Work Practices

- Make sure that workers who operate aerial lifts are properly trained in the safe use of the equipment.
- Maintain and operate elevating work platforms according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Never override hydraulic, mechanical, or electrical safety devices.
- Never move the equipment with workers in an elevated platform unless the lift is specifically designed by the manufacturer to do so.
- Do not allow workers to exit an elevated lift in order to reach equipment. Lower the lift, reposition, and re-elevate.
- Modifications to an aerial lift can only be performed by authorized personnel, and require written permission from the manufacturer.
- Always treat power lines, overhead wires and other conductors as if they are energized- approach with caution until certain they are not.
- When using a lift that is designed to move at height, a body harness or restraining belt with a lanyard attached to the appropriate boom or basket point should be worn. This is to prevent worker(s) from being ejected or pulled from the basket.
- Do not use aerial lifts on inclined surfaces unless the lift is specifically designed for that application. Set brakes and use wheel chocks as appropriate before elevating.
- Outriggers must be used if the aerial lift design includes them. Outriggers cannot be modified in any way.
- Do not exceed the indicated load limits of the equipment. Allow for the combined weight of the worker(s), tools, equipment, and materials.
- If lifts are powered by diesel or liquid-propane fuel, proper ventilation must be provided to protect workers from dangerous exhaust fumes.
- Do not attach equipment to the rails of the aerial lift in order to increase capacity.