



# Aerial Lift Safety

**Aerial lifts include scissor lifts, bucket trucks and cherry pickers. Each year, construction workers are killed or injured while using this equipment because they:**

- **Were not wearing a harness and fell off the equipment;**
- **Fell with the equipment when it tipped over; or**
- **Were electrocuted when the equipment touched a power line or electrical wires.**

## Al's Story

Al was working in a bucket truck to reach a sign he needed to repair. The sign was located near some electrical wires. Al was not provided with a body harness. While he was working, the truck shifted. Al lost his balance, fell 20 feet to the ground, and died.

- ✘ **What caused this incident?**
- ✘ **How could this have been prevented?**
- ✘ **Have you or someone you know had an injury from aerial lifts? If so, what happened?**

## Remember this:

*Before operating an aerial lift*

- Check operating and emergency controls.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions and set outriggers, brakes, and wheel chocks, even if on a level surface. Look for a level surface that won't

shift. Never exceed the manufacturer's slope limits.

- Look for potential hazards such as potholes, bumps, debris that could cause the lift to tip over.
- Avoid contact with overhead hazards such as electrical wires or power lines.
- Ask your supervisor if the electrical wires or power lines near the work have been de-energized.
- Close lift-platform chains or doors, and check guardrails – OSHA requires guardrails on scissor lifts.
- Check personal fall protection equipment, if there are signs of damage your employer should give you a new one.
- Look for leaks of air, hydraulic fluid, and fuel.
- Always follow the procedures in the user manual.
- If working near traffic, set up cones and signs as work zone warnings.

*While operating an aerial lift*

- Always close lift-platform chains or doors.
- Always wear fall arrest equipment with lanyard attached to a designated anchor point.
- Always stand on the floor of the bucket. Do not climb on or lean over the guardrails.
- **Do not** exceed the load limits. **Do not** drive an aerial lift with the lift extended, unless designed for that purpose.

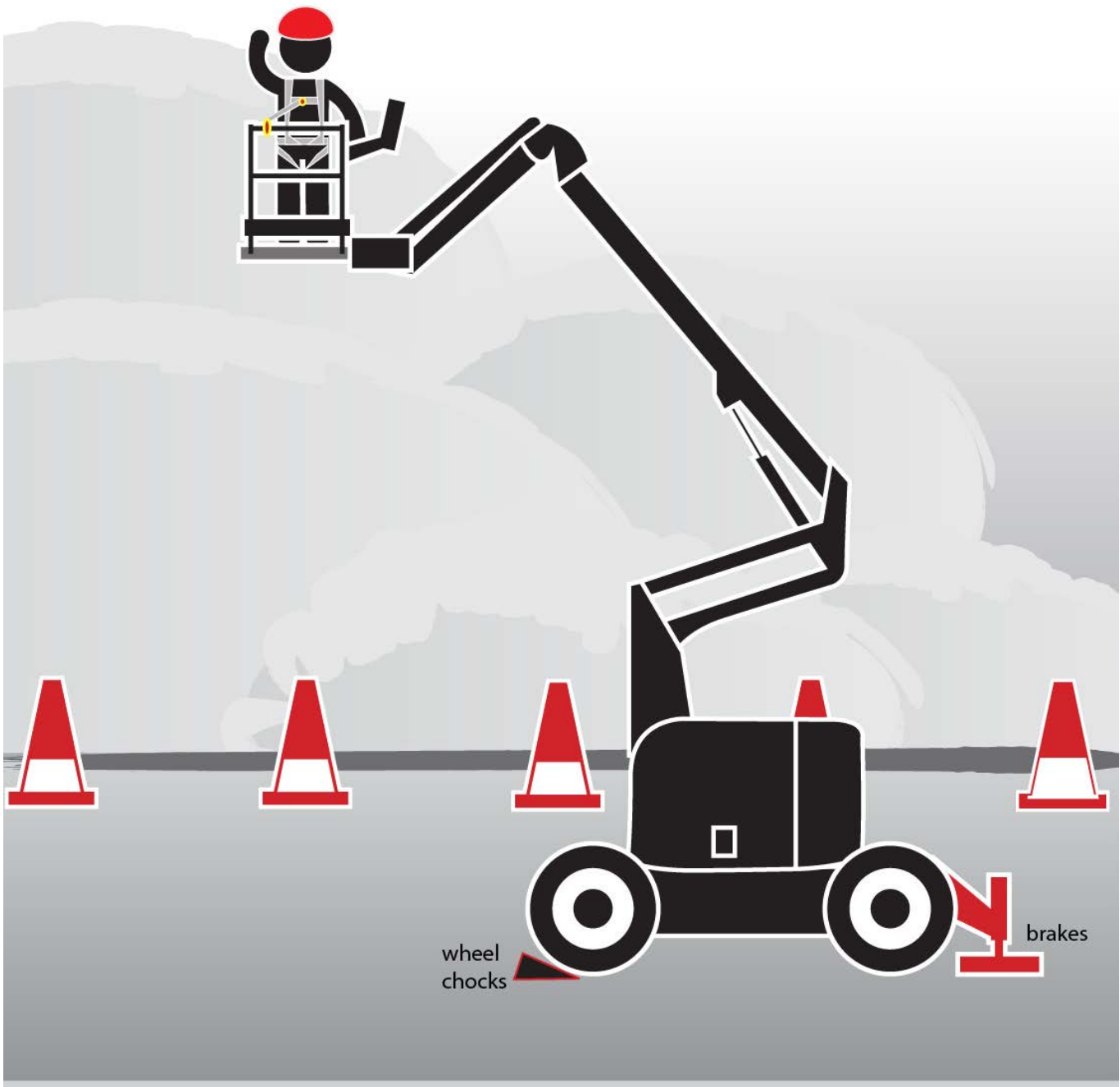
## How can we stay safe today?

What will we do at the worksite to prevent injuries from aerial lifts?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. \_\_\_\_\_  
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OSHA Regulation: 1926.453. *OSHA considers aerial lifts to be supported scaffolds.*

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- ✘ Set outriggers, brakes, and wheel chocks – even if on a level surface.
- ✘ Stand on the floor of the bucket. **Do not** climb on or lean over the guardrails.
- ✘ Wear fall arrest equipment with lanyard attached to a designated anchor point