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TOOLBOX TALK

SCISSOR LIFT SAFETY

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There are two basic rules to keep in mind when using a scissor lift:

- Rule #1:** Read, follow and understand the manufacturers' requirements for using a scissor lift.
- Rule #2:** Scissor lifts are safe when used as designed, which means follow Rule #1.

10 Safe Practices to Follow When Using a Scissor Lift

- Perform inspections before putting a scissor lift into use. Inspect the lift for tire inflation and tire damage, and check instruments for warnings. Inspect the work area for holes and drop offs, trash, extension cords or anything that you may run over. Check the legibility of operational controls, and remove any trash or clutter on the scissor lift work platform.
- Check your work and/or travel area for any overhead obstructions. Exercise great care when traveling near sprinkler pipes, going under building structures or moving through doorways.
- Reattach the safety chain immediately after getting on to the scissor lift.
- Use only on level surfaces as the equipment was designed to be used. Driving into a hole or over an edge can cause the scissor lift to tip over.
- Maintain a safe distance from the guard rails. Guard rails on elevated work surfaces are designed to keep people from falling over the edge. These guard rails will not withstand the force of a scissor lift being driven against them.
- Do not stand on the guard rail or on a bucket, and do not use a ladder in a scissor lift. The guard rail system is your fall protection.
- Find out and do not exceed the weight limit the scissor lift is designed to withstand.
- Do not use a scissor lift as a material hoist or a personnel elevator.
- Limit your work to the immediate area; traveling across the job site in an elevated position is prohibited.
- Never store an oxygen or fuel cylinder on a scissor lift. When welding and cutting is done, the cylinders shall remain on the floor in a secured position.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are the OSHA requirements for operator qualification?

A: OSHA requires the employer to instruct employees in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions applicable to a work environment. OSHA also requires that only employees approved or assigned by the employer operate scissor lifts. There are no specific OSHA regulations that require scissor lift operators be certified or qualified. Keep in mind that OSHA requirements are the *minimum* requirements for employers. A general contractor may require the operator carry proof of training or hold some documentation of training received.

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Building Your Quality of Life

Frequently Asked Questions, *continued*

Q: Can I get out of my scissor lift to gain access to another elevated work surface?

A: While OSHA does not prohibit this practice, 100% fall protection is required, which means it is essential that you tie off to an adjacent structure that will withstand the arresting force should you fall when getting in or out of a scissor lift. When tying off to the scissor lift itself, the scissor lift must be designed to withstand the vertical and lateral loads imposed by the arresting force of an employee falling.

Company Name

Project #/Name

Meeting Location

Person Conducting Meeting

Items Discussed

Problem Areas or Concerns

Attendees

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Comments
