AERIAL LIFTS/MAN-LIFTS

Aerial lifts are pieces of equipment that many workers can't imagine working without. This equipment, if used correctly, provides quick and safe access to work areas that at one time could only be reached from scaffolding or a crane's man basket. These lifts, collectively called Aerial Work Platforms, are important tools. But as with any tool, there are right and wrong ways to use them safely.

The most important tip to remember before operating any aerial lift platform is always read and follow the manufacturer's safety and operation manual! Employees of Brieser Construction Company will not operate an aerial lift/man-lift unless they have received training in accordance with Section 27 of Brieser Safety Manual and OSHA’s 29 CFR 1910.67.

Safe Operating Procedures for Both Man lifts and Scissor Lifts:

- Only trained and authorized people should operate the lift. A qualified instructor must make sure that every operator reads and understands the equipment's safety and operating instructions. This includes all of the warning decals and labels mounted on the machine. The operator and any attendant must know how to lower the lift when the power is not operating and in an emergency.

- Prior to each shift a safety inspection should be completed by the operator; this includes both a visual inspection and a function test. If a problem is found, get the lift repaired before it is used. Document the inspection on the DAILY AERIAL LIFT INSPECTION SHEET.

- Personal fall arrest systems are required to be used in all boom lifts at all times. Personal fall arrest systems are required in scissor lifts by some of our customers and are recommended at all other times.

- Always check for overhead obstructions before driving or elevating the platform. In some cases, a spotter may be necessary. Ask for help if you have to work in congested areas, around critical or delicate equipment, or where multiple obstructions make maneuvering the lift difficult. Flagging or marking obstructions may help to make them more readily noticed.

- Aerial Lifts shall be flagged using caution tape around the work area including but not limited to the Aerial lift body. The purpose is to alert others of the potential travel hazard as well as overhead falling objects.

- Refuel tanks only when the unit is turned off. If battery powered, the batteries should be charged only in a well-ventilated area, away from any open flame.

- When moving the lift into position, make sure that the floor or ground surfaced can support the lift. Make sure that there are no holes, drop-offs or obstructions in the path of travel. Always warn any bystanders that you are moving the lift.

- Always maintain a safe distance from debris piles, drop-offs, floor openings, etc.

- Never drive the man lift when it is elevated above the limit the manufacturer considers safe. Each piece of equipment will state what the maximum extension can be while being driven.

- Elevate the platform only when it is on a firm, level surface. Although many lifts look like a rough terrain piece of equipment, they are not. Their large tires allow the equipment to access somewhat difficult areas, but once in position they are designed to be out of level only 5 degrees
while in operation. This amounts to 10 inches in a 10 foot wheel span. In addition, the lift must have a tilt alarm that activates when the machine is more than 5 degrees out of level.

- The platform must be equipped with a parking brake that will hold the unit securely on any slope it is capable of climbing. The brake should be tested periodically. Scissor lifts are efficient one-direction lifts. They provide a solid surface to work from, but always remember:
- Guardrails, mid-rails and toe-boards must be in place. The toe board can be omitted at the door. Always make sure that the door or the mid-rail safety chain is closed when the lift is in use.
- Never use the lift's rails, planks across the rails, or a ladder, to gain additional height.

Unique hazards for lifts: lifts can move in more than a single direction, increasing the risk of mishaps, so it's important to remember the following:

- Whenever working out of a boom lift, a full body harness must be worn, and properly attached to the basket. A sudden jolt has thrown people from boom lifts, before they could react.
- Always keep your feet on the floor when working in the lift. Do not climb on the toe rail, or any of the other railing elements. Use the door to enter and exit the lift, even in an elevated position. Never sit, stand, or work on any of the railing. Do not use a bucket, ladder, or tool tray to work above the floor of the lift.

Used correctly, aerial work platforms can be priceless, timesaving assets. Operating them without regard to their limitations and this same equipment will put you and those around you, at undo risk.

**TRAINING**

Common equipment that Brieser employees use to access elevated work areas include JLGs, Snorkel or boom lifts, scissor lifts, articulating boom platforms and bucket trucks. This type of equipment is classified by OSHA as “aerial lifts” and the standard that addresses their safe use is found in Subpart L, under scaffolds. Within the standard, training requirements are that all operators be trained and authorized by their employer before operating the equipment.

The training shall include demonstrated proficiency in operation of the specific type of equipment to be used and documentation of this training shall be made available to OSHA upon request. OSHA standards do not specify a frequency for retraining of aerial lift operators. Instead, they refer to ANSI A92.6 which states, “The operator shall be retrained, when so directed by the user (the contractor or owner), based on the user’s observation and evaluation of the operator.”

All Brieser employees who operate an aerial lift are required to successfully complete an aerial lift operating training program along with hands-on training prior to operating an aerial lift. All operators must be retrained every three years through successful completion of the hands-on training. If operators cannot demonstrate proficiency or are involved in an accident using the lift training must be repeated. The operator training program includes classroom instructions, a written test and proficiency demonstration of hands-on operation.

**Classroom Training**
The classroom training shall consist of:

- Responsibility;
- Pre-operation inspection;
- Function tests;
- Safety Operation; and
- Hands-on.
Hands-on Training

The Hands-on operation must be completed for each type of Aerial Lift utilized: (Boom lifts, Telescopic Lifts, Articulating Lifts, Trailer Mounted Lifts, Scissor Lifts, Vertical Personnel Lifts, Spider Lift, etc.)

1. **Pre-Use Equipment Inspection** – Including but not limited to: safety devices, air hydraulic/fuel systems for leaks, cable wiring harness for damage, loose or missing parts, tires & wheels, placards & warnings/control markings, outrigger stabilizers and other structures, guardrail systems, other items specified in owner’s manual.
2. **Inspect Worksite** – Including but not limited to: drop offs or holes, slopes, bumps, and floor obstructions, debris, overhead obstructions and electrical hazards, inadequate surface and support to withstand all load forces, wind and weather conditions, presence of bystanders, other unsafe conditions.
3. **Function Test of Lower Control Station** – Done to determine if there are any malfunctions.
4. **Utilize Fall Protection Equipment** – Face the machine. Maintain 3 point contact with the ladder/handrails (two hands, one foot OR two feet, one hand)
5. **Function Test of Bucket / Platform / Basket Control Station** – Done to determine if there are any malfunctions.
6. **Drive and Creep / Inch Forward and Reverse** – Move approximately 10 feet in a driving mode and creeping approximately 5 feet. Verify unit balance and stability.
7. **Turn Vehicle 360 Degrees Right and Left** – Minimum disturbance of aerial platform. Verify unit balance and stability.
10. **Tilt Platform In Each Direction** – Minimum disturbance of aerial platform, Verify balance and stability.
13. **Dismount Safely, Face the Machine When Dismounting** – Maintain 3 point contact with ladder/handrails (two hands, one foot OR two feet, one hand).

**Comments** – Must be included for all “Failed” tasks. If task is failed the evaluator must explain what was done incorrectly and have the trainee repeat the task until it is completed correctly.

**Answer the following questions “True” or “False” by circling the appropriate letter.**

**T**  **F**  1. An Aerial work platform can be a Scissors Lift?

**T**  **F**  2. Operators of Aerial Work Platforms must ensure they are documenting daily inspections on the Aerial Work Platform Inspection Checklist, Attachment A?
### Training in Aerial Lifts/Man-Lifts

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<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Open area to perform hands-on</td>
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3. Using a Full Body Harness with a 6 foot shock absorbing lanyard as a personal fall system is 100% acceptable?  
T  F

4. Always follow the manufacturer’s policy when determining if guard rails are acceptable as fall protection while using a Scissors lift?  
T  F

5. A second person must be assigned to observe the operator while working at heights and subject to fall arrest from the unit?  
T  F

6. A minimum of 10 feet should be maintained from energized electrical power lines?  
T  F

7. Aerial work platforms should not be operated at wind speeds greater than 20 mph?  
T  F

8. An aerial work platform shall not be moved when the boom, ladder, or scissors lift is elevated in a working position with personnel in the basket or on the ladder, except for equipment which is specifically designed for this type of operation?  
T  F

9. In order to operate an Aerial Work Platform, the following is required: Aerial lift/Man lifts training found in the Brieser Equipment Training manual and Fall Protection?  
T  F

10. Refresher training is required at least every five years?  
T  F
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Trainee Name (print) | Signature of Trainee
Instructor Name | Date of Training
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