



Toolbox Talks

Scissor Lifts



Scissor lifts can pose serious risks to workers if they are not operated properly and safely.

- Never operate a scissor lift unless you have been trained on the operation of the lift!
- Never exceed the rated load capacity of the scissor lift as provided by the manufacturer.
- Select work locations that do not approach power sources, like overhead power lines, by at least 10 feet and that do not pose other overhead hazards.
- Always follow guidelines specific to the type of scissor lift being used.

Tip overs can occur if proper safety precautions are not followed when using scissor lifts.

- Outriggers are used when stability is required. If work with a scissor lift must be completed while positioned on uneven ground, an incline, or a slope, ensure that the scissor lift is equipped with outriggers.
- Avoid operating scissor lifts in high winds. Consider waiting until winds calm down before proceeding with operations.
- When in a stationary position, the scissor lift wheels must be locked in place.

OSHA Standard 1926.451(f)(3) Scaffolds and scaffold components shall be inspected for visible defects by a competent person before each work shift, and after any occurrence which could affect a scaffold's structural integrity.

- Inspections and maintenance to scissor lifts are an important part of hazard prevention. If a scissor lift is found damaged it shall be removed from service until repaired.
- Never lean over or out of the scissor lift platform basket. Keep work within easy reach to avoid leaning away from the lift.
- Never stand on, step up on, or step over the guardrail components of a scissor lift. Always keep both feet firmly planted on the platform of the scissor lift.
- Never climb up the scissor lift mechanism to reach the platform basket of the scissor lift.
- Before a scissor lift is moved, workers on the lift must be made aware of the travel and movement.
- Always ensure workers' hands, legs, clothing and personal equipment are free from the scissor lift's lifting mechanism when it is being operated.
- Implement traffic control measures around the scissor lift to prevent other workers or vehicles from getting too close.

