



Toolbox Talks

Boom Trucks



A boom truck is a vehicle with a hydraulic telescopic or articulating boom mounted on it.

- The boom can be designed to hold either a bucket (which can lift personnel) or lifting equipment (to hoist heavy loads).
- Only trained and authorized employees are allowed to operate boom trucks.

When operating any type of boom truck, safety is critical.

- Conduct a thorough pre-start inspection before operation. This is usually done before each work shift to ensure the truck is safe to operate. Confirm that all the boom truck controls are labeled properly. The layout of controls from one truck to another often varies.
- Always maintain a safe distance from power lines, buildings, workers, and other equipment.
- Monitor the weather and avoid operating the truck in high winds, storms, or low visibility conditions.
- Avoid placing or storing tools within or on the control panel.
- Always wear your required PPE.
- Use the right fall protection for the specific type of lift and follow manufacturer's recommendations.
- Vehicles must not be placed in motion when the bucket or lift device is extended or raised unless the vehicle is rated for towering operations.
- Survey the area where the boom truck will be used before setting up the truck to identify and avoid potential hazards such as unstable ground, traffic hazards, or other dangers.
- Use outriggers, supports, and blocking methods to keep the boom truck stable, as specified by the manufacturer.
- Set up cones, signs, and other required traffic and pedestrian safety devices.
- Become familiar with the specific load capacity of the boom truck being used to prevent overloading and ensure safe operation

If you are working in an area where a boom truck is in operation always obey all posted warning signs, only walk on designated pedestrian pathways, avoid distractions, and maintain situation awareness.

Unacceptable boom truck operation conditions:

- The boom truck cannot maintain the required distance from overhead powerlines at all times (10 feet or more).
- The boom truck is not positioned on stable ground, or the operator cannot ensure stability, even when using the outriggers/stabilizers.
- The wind is blowing hard enough to prevent a stable lift.
- The boom truck is positioned in such a way that the operator may not be able to avoid striking a building, an object, or a person.
- The boom truck is overloaded beyond the manufacturer's specified load limits.
- Any situation in which the operator does not believe that they can operate the boom truck safely.

