



# 5-minute safety talk

## Bucket Truck Safety

Using bucket trucks and aerial lifts can make your task easier, but you need to ensure your safety and the safety of those around you. The most common bucket truck and aerial lift accidents include falls, electrocution, and roll overs.

When using bucket trucks and aerial lifts, please remember:

- Anyone operating an aerial lift must read and fully understand the operator's manual. If a person is unable to read and comprehend the manual, another person must explain it.
- Review manufacturer's limitations or recommendations for equipment selection.
- All operators must be trained on safety precautions. Training must include operating specifics and the operator must be proficient in operating the equipment.
- Clean the bucket regularly. A build up of oil and grease increases the risk of fires and falls. Dirt can also affect the dielectric strength of the bucket.
- All workers assigned to ground work should be trained in rescue procedures. Regularly practice rescue scenario drills to increase proficiency.
- Keep both feet on the bucket floor at all times.
- Pay attention and look in the direction you are moving.
- Stay within the weight range designated for the equipment. The bucket liner, tools, and personnel need to be included when calculating the weight. Never exceed the permissible capacity.
- If your bucket truck has an auxiliary hoist, be sure to stay within the load times and check its condition before each use.
- Assess your environment and the ground. If you can dig your heel into the ground, it is likely to give out and will not provide a stable base for the equipment. This step is especially important with frozen ground.
- Conduct an inspection before each use of the machine, including ground operated controls. This could be in the form of following a written checklist or conducting a visual inspection. The operator's manual should provide you with a list of important items to check. Never work with damaged equipment.
- If your equipment has a bucket tilt, test it before you begin.
- Have a load chart easily accessible. Be sure all operators know how to read and understand the load chart.
- If you are a high voltage worker, the bucket must either be grounded or barricaded.
- Ground workers should not touch the vehicle when the boom is elevated.
- Always keep your distance when working around power lines. Remain 10 feet or more away from power lines at all times.
- If you will be working around power lines, consult the utility company to have the lines de-energized prior to beginning work.
- Working in an insulated bucket does not keep you safe from all electrical hazards. Proper electrical PPE should be worn.
- Chock the wheels of your vehicle - no exceptions.

### Powerline Voltage:

| Minimum Safe phase to phase(kV) | Clearance (feet) |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 50 or below                     | 10               |
| Above 50 to 200                 | 15               |
| Above 200 to 350                | 20               |
| Above 350 to 500                | 25               |
| Above 500 to 750                | 35               |
| Above 750 to 1,000              | 45               |

- Always extend the outriggers and use outrigger pads.
- Avoid placing or storing tools within or on the control panel.
- Make sure all of your controls are properly marked and labeled. While you may be familiar with the controls of your equipment, you may be required to use another piece of equipment. The layout of controls from one device to another often varies.
- If self-rescue devices or techniques are required, know what they are and how to properly implement them.
- 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. A manufacturer's plate on the back of the vehicle will indicate if the unit is rated for towering operation.
- Where OSHA rules apply, aerial lift operators are required to wear fall protection. Typically, PPE will consist of a five point harness with a decelerating lanyard.

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