## Hamilton Aerial Lift Safety Training

Hamilton Aerial Lift Safety Training - Each and every year, there are roughly 26 construction deaths attributed to the use of aerial lifts. Nearly all of the craftsmen killed are electrical workers, laborers, ironworkers, carpenters or painters. The majority of the deaths are caused by falls, tip-overs and electrocutions. The greatest risk is from boom-supported lifts, such as cherry pickers and bucket trucks. The majority of the fatalities are connected to this kind of lift, with the rest involving scissor lifts. Other hazards include being struck by falling objects, being thrown out of a bucket, and being caught between the lift bucket or guardrail and a thing, such as a steel beam or joist.

The safe operation of an aerial lift needs a check on the following things prior to using the device: emergency and operating controls, personal fall protection gear, safety devices, and tires and wheels. Check for possible leaks in the air, fuel-system, hydraulic fluid. Check the device for missing or loose components.

The places that worker would use the aerial device must be examined thoroughly for potential dangers, like bumps, holes, debris and drop-offs. Overhead powerlines have to be avoided and monitored. It is suggested that aerial lift devices be used on surfaces that are level and stable. Do not work on steep slopes that go beyond slope restrictions which the manufacturer specified. Even on a level slope, wheel chocks, outriggers and brakes must be set.

Companies should provide their aerial lift operators with the correct instruction manuals. Mechanics and operators should be trained by a certified individual experienced with the relevant type of aerial lift.

Aerial Lift Safety Tips:
o Prior to operating, close doors and lift platform chains.
o Leaning over and climbing on guardrails is prohibited. Stand on the floor of the bucket or platform.
o Stay within manufacturer's load-capacity limits.
o When working near traffic, make use of appropriate work-zone warnings, like cones and signs.

If correct procedures are followed, electrocutions are avoidable. Stay at least 10 feet away from whichever power lines and licensed electricians must de-energize and/or insulate power lines. Those working have to utilize personal protective equipment and tools, such as a bucket which is insulated. Nevertheless, an insulated bucket does not protect from electrocution if, for example, the person working touches another wire providing a path to the ground.

When in the bucket, workers have to prevent possible falls by securing themselves to the guardrails by utilizing a positioning device or a full-body harness. If there is an anchorage in the bucket, a positioning belt together with a short lanyard is adequate.

Tip-overs are preventable by following the manufacturer's instructions. Unless the manufacturer specifies otherwise, never drive while the lift platform is elevated. Adhere to the device's vertical and horizontal reach limitations, and never go beyond the specified load-capacity.