

Aerial Lifts: Tie Off and Stay in the Basket

COMPANY

PROJECT

DATE

PRESENTED BY

Boom lifts and bucket trucks help us reach overhead work, but a shortcut can put someone outside the basket or move it unexpectedly. Whether we are installing, repairing, or inspecting, safe work starts with working controls, proper tie-off, and keeping our feet on the basket floor.

Before anyone goes up

- Only authorized people may operate an aerial lift. If you have not been instructed on recognizing and avoiding the hazards of this work, tell the foreman before starting.
- Test the lift controls each day before use to make sure they work safely. If a control fails or acts unexpectedly, stop and report it before using the lift.
- Set the brakes, and place any outriggers on pads or a solid surface. On an incline, install wheel chocks before use if they can be installed safely.
- Check the manufacturer's boom and basket load limits before loading people, tools, and materials. Do not exceed those limits just because everything appears to fit inside the basket.

Tie off and keep your footing

- When working from the lift, attach your fall protection lanyard to the boom or basket. Never tie off to a nearby pole, building, or other equipment.
- A body belt is not acceptable as part of a system that catches you after a fall. For that, wear a harness. A body belt is acceptable in a tethering or restraint setup, one that holds you back so you cannot fall.
- Stand firmly on the basket floor throughout the work. Do not sit or climb on the basket edge, even to reach a fastener or check your work.
- Do not stand on a ladder, plank, or any other device in the basket to work from. If the work is out of reach, stop and work out a safe way to reach it.

Control movement together

- Check that control functions are plainly marked and upper controls are within easy reach. Know that the lower controls can override the controls in the basket.
- Get permission from the worker in the lift before operating lower controls, except in an emergency. Ask first, every time.
- Do not move a lift truck while the boom is raised in a working position with workers in the basket, unless the equipment is specifically designed for that. Never assume every lift allows it.
- Before moving the lift for travel, check that the boom is properly seated in its travel support and the outriggers are stowed. Report anything preventing safe travel.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

You cannot reach an overhead connection from the basket floor. A coworker offers a ladder, while someone below reaches for the lower controls without asking. What would you stop, and how would you arrange the work safely?

Questions for the crew

1. When must we test lift controls?
2. Where must your lanyard attach?
3. What should you do when you cannot reach from the basket floor?
4. Whose permission is needed before using lower controls outside an emergency?

Test the controls, tie off to the lift, keep your feet on the floor, and stop when the work cannot be done safely.

Sources: 29 CFR 1926.453, Aerial lifts; 29 CFR 1926.21, Safety training and education

Drafted with AI for review by a competent person. Clever Rook writes from the official regulation text it cites, but it doesn't know your site. Check it against your conditions and your company's safety program before use. Not legal advice.

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REVIEWED BY (COMPETENT PERSON)

REVIEW DATE

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