

AERIAL WORK PLATFORMS (AWPs)

TOOLBOX TALK 1 - SERIES 1



INTRODUCTION

Aerial Lift Platforms (AWPs) are an integral part of construction sites. This powerful equipment enables operators to perform otherwise impossible tasks. However, AWPs present risk and danger if not handled properly. Reviewing the following information will prepare operators for safe operation.

BEST WORK PRACTICES

❑ Follow existing standards and safety guidelines for the safe operation and use of an aerial lift.

It is imperative that lift operators have read and are familiar with the current standards found in OSHA Regulation 1926.453 and ANSI A92 Standards.

❑ Familiarize yourself with the proper boom lift manuals.

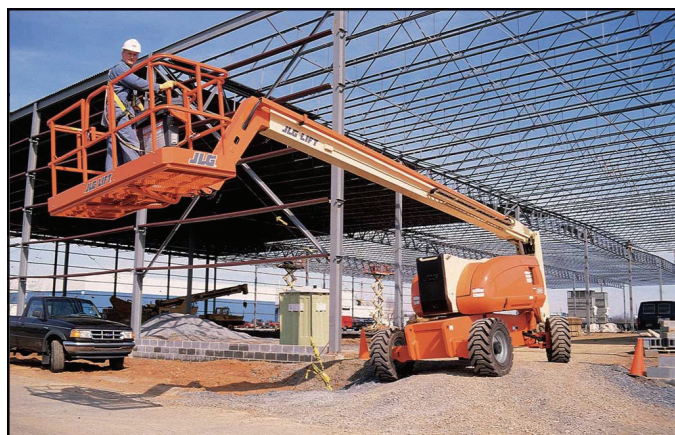
The ANSI Manual of Responsibilities and the operating manual for the make and model lift in use are an integral part of a boom lift. Know them and keep them with you during operation.

❑ Only operate a lift if qualified to do so.

To be qualified, a person must have thorough training, knowledge or experience with an aerial lift, and be familiar with the safe operation of the equipment and the hazards involved.

❑ Perform a visual inspection and functional test.

- Operating and emergency controls
- Safety devices
- Personal protective devices
- Air, hydraulic, and fuel system leakage
- Cables and wiring harnesses
- Loose or missing parts



- Tires and wheels
- Placards, warnings, and control markings
- Outriggers, stabilizers, and other structures
- Guard rail system

❑ Inspect the workplace regularly.

The operator should be aware of the possible hazards associated with that job. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Debris – Cleanup and organize the work area.
2. Holes/Openings – Steer clear of them, as they could offset the balance of the lift.
3. Covers – Avoid carefully! A cover supports approximately 250 to 300 pounds, whereas a 60' boom lift weighs 24,000 lbs. or 8,640 lbs./square foot.
4. Uneven Surfaces and Floor Obstructions – Be observant of your work area and the surfaces you're working on. A change in elevation of 3 or more inches on the ground could mean a difference of 2 to 4 feet 40 to 60 feet up.
5. Check the tires for proper inflation.

❑ Use Signs and Barricades

Keep unauthorized personnel away from the equipment, and especially keep them from working underneath it.

❑ Use the Required PPE

PPE for an aerial lifts includes: Hard hats, safety glasses, steel toed boots, full body harness and lanyards.

HAZARDS

❑ Wind and Weather Conditions

Do not operate an AWP if winds are greater than 25 MPH.

❑ Overhead Obstructions

Be especially careful to keep a safe distance from overhead cranes, piping, and nearby power lines (the minimum safe distance is 10 feet over 300V to 50KV).

CONCLUSION

The AWP operator should continually inspect and be keenly aware of his or her surroundings. Remembering training and holding to safety standards will ensure productivity and prevent costly accidents.

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