

ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY

MOBILE ELEVATING WORK PLATFORMS

This policy contains practices and procedures to protect employees from the hazards associated with using aerial work and elevated platforms and also instructs them on the proper use of fall protection.

This policy applies to ALL employees of Facilities Management group at Arkansas Tech University.

Working above ground on mobile elevating work platforms (MEWP) supported by scissors, masts or booms can result in severe injury or death if safety methods are not followed such as wearing proper fall protection.

Appropriate safety equipment (e.g. anchorages, lanyards) must be provided by the University when such equipment is necessary to protect the health and safety of the employee(s). The supervising department is responsible for the purchase of such equipment.

This MEWP program references OSHA 1926.453 and the latest ANSI A92 standards:

1. ANSI A92.2 – Vehicle-Mounted Elevating and Rotating Aerial Devices (Figure.1)
2. ANSI A92.3 – Manually Propelled Elevating Aerial Platforms (Figure 2)
3. ANSI A92.5 – Boom-Supported Elevating Work Platforms (Figure 3)
4. ANSI A92.6 – Self-Propelled Elevating Work Platforms [Scissor Lifts] (Figure 4)

Aerial work platforms must be designed, constructed, and tested so as to be in compliance with the requirements of the applicable American National Standards Institute standards listed above.

Figure 1:
Vehicle-Mounted Elevating Work Platform



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Figure 2:
Manually Propelled Elevating Work Platform

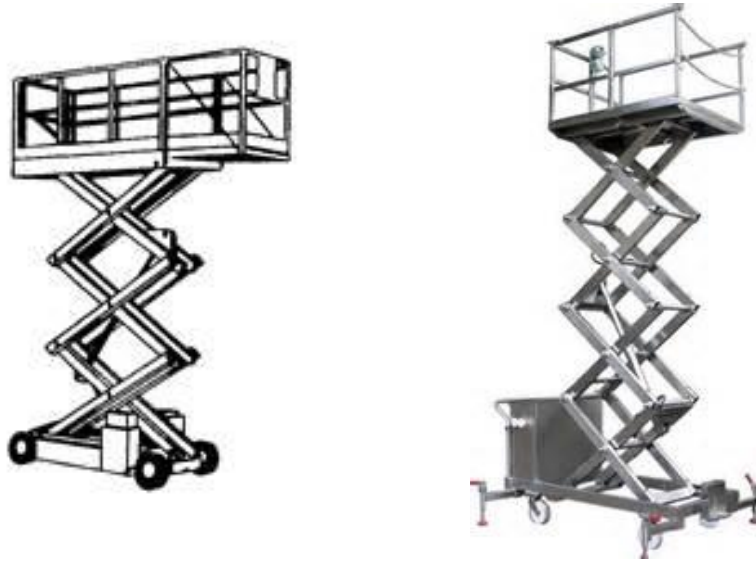


Figure 3:
Boom-Supported Elevating Work Platform



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Figure 4:
Self-Propelled Elevating Work Platform



****NOTE**** These are in no way a depiction of every type of aerial lift, just common ones that an employee might see or use on campus.

EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS

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Aerial work platforms must not be field modified for uses other than those intended by the manufacturer, unless a modification has been certified in writing by the manufacturer or by any other equivalent entity.

All equipment must contain the following specifications:

1. Aerial work platforms must be equipped with emergency controls at ground level.
2. Emergency ground level controls must be clearly marked as to their intended function and be capable of overriding the platform controls.
3. All of the following information must be clearly marked in a permanent manner on each aerial work platform:
 - a) Special workings, cautions, or restrictions necessary for operation.
 - b) Rated work load.
 - c) A clear statement of whether or not the aerial work platform is electrically insulated.
4. Rotating shafts, gears, and other moving parts that are exposed to contact must be guarded, as prescribed in general industry safety standard 29 CFR 1910 Subpart O.

AERIAL EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS

Although aerial lifts that employees of Facilities Management uses are mostly rentals, visual inspections must still be performed before each use.

Each aerial and elevated work platform must be inspected, maintained, repaired, and kept in proper working condition in accordance with the manufacturer's operating or maintenance and repair manual or manuals.

Before each use, look for the following defects during your pre-work inspection:

1. Cracked welds
2. Bent or broken structural members
3. Hydraulic or fuel leaks
4. Damaged controls and cables
5. Loose wires
6. Tire condition
7. Fuel and hydraulic fluid levels
8. Slippery conditions on the platform

Any aerial or elevated work platform found not to be in a safe operating condition must be removed from service until repaired. All repairs must be made by an authorized person in accordance with the manufacturer's operating or maintenance and repair manual or manuals.

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AERIAL LIFT HAZARDS

ELECTRICAL

Workers in MEWPs that are not electrically insulated must not come within 10 feet of energized overhead power lines.

Only specially trained high voltage personnel, with approved PPE and in approved insulated MEWPs, are authorized to work within 10 feet of energized overhead power lines.

TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

Operators of an aerial work platform over or adjacent to any public or private roadway must maintain adequate clearances of all portions of the aerial work platform to prevent being struck by vehicular traffic.

RESCUE FROM HEIGHT ACTION PLAN

In the event of an operator needing rescued from height from stranding or protected fall and cannot rescue themselves or be lowered safely from the ground controls or ground controls not functioning, call 911 immediately for Russellville fire department assistance in rescue. Provide detailed information on location and circumstances of the rescue. Russellville fire departments are more equipped and trained in rescue situations and can be on location within a few minutes. Injuries and even fatalities have occurred when operators descend incorrectly from stranding. Arkansas Tech University employees are not to attempt a protected fall rescue and should call 911, wait for help to arrive, and assist the authorities with information for the rescue.

GENERAL OPERATING REQUIREMENTS

The following are requirements that must be met when using an aerial lift:

1. Only trained persons are allowed to operate an aerial lift
2. Belting off to an adjacent pole, structure, or equipment while working from an aerial lift is not permitted.
3. The brakes must be set, and when outriggers are used, they must be positioned on pads or a solid surface.
4. The designed rated capacity for a given angle of elevation must not be exceeded
5. Only employees, their tools, and necessary materials must be on or in the platform
6. The guardrail system of the platform must not be used to support materials, other work platforms, or employees
7. Altering, modifying, or disabling safety devices or interlocks is prohibited

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8. Weather conditions such as wind and lightning must be evaluated prior to raising the boom or platform. Manufacturer's recommendations for use in windy conditions must be followed
9. Stunt driving and horseplay are prohibited
10. The employee is to be secured and tied off with fall protection anytime they are working from an aerial lift of any kind.
11. Manufacturer's operation and safety manuals must be present and/or immediately available on aerial lifts for use by the authorized and trained operator. Lifts of all types will be used in accordance with Manufacturer's instructions and limitations.