Jobsite: _____ Date: _____
Foreman: _____ G.C. _____

SMOHIT Safety Sense
Toolbox Talks for the Sheet Metal Industry

Falls Involving Aerial Lifts

- Aerial lifts are devices used by workers to allow work at high elevations and include aerial ladders, boom platforms, vertical towers, etc. Aerial lifts are convenient to reach high areas and are generally safe, but they can cause accidents and injury if they are used improperly..
- Inspect the jobsite before setting up any aerial lifts. Make sure the aerial lift is on stable level, ground to prevent the lift from falling over. Avoid setting up a platform on wet ground if possible. Avoid drop-offs, holes, bumps, debris, and overhead obstructions, especially electrical hazards.
- Inspect the lift before each use. Make sure that the lift raises and lowers properly. If there are any mechanical problems with the lift, stop work immediately and report the problem to your supervisor.
- Make sure that the opening to the platform has a gate or chain to prevent workers from falling through it. Once all workers are on the platform, fasten the gate or chain in the closed position.
- Do not exceed the weight capacity that is posted on the lift. Check the weight capacity before you load it and distribute weight evenly to ensure the lift's stability.
- Do not move the lift once the platform is raised. When moving a lift, always lower the center of gravity first.
- Always keep your feet firmly on the platform and avoid sitting near or climbing on the edges of an aerial lift.
- Wear a body harness and lanyard every time you work from a boom lift. Always wear them when your feet leave the deck on a scissor lift.
- Make sure you have the proper training before you operate or work on any type of aerial lift.

Instructor Tips

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- **Walk an area of the job looking for hazards to aerial lifts such as holes, drop offs and overhead electrical lines.**
- **Demonstrate the proper way to evenly distribute the weight of a load on a platform.**

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OSHA Regulations: 1926.453