

Scissors Lift Scaffolds

Scissors lifts are an efficient and safe method of providing a temporary elevated work platform for many construction operations. However, if these lifts are not maintained or used properly, accidents can occur. Every year in the United States, about 190 people become construction fatalities due to improper use of scaffolds. Falls, electrocution, and overturns of scissors lifts are the leading causes of these senseless accidents.

All of these accidents are preventable. Always apply good judgment and common sense when using these scaffolds. Check these common sense items before you use that scissors lift.

Serious Scissors Lift Hazards

- Operating on rough ground, holes, improper set-up, overturn.
- Operating too close to energized overhead lines or parts.
- Overloading the lift.
- Climbing on the rails; falling from the platform.
- Using the lift as a crane

General Guidelines for Using Scissors Lift

- Train workers adequately before they use the scissors lift.
- Ensure that workers understand all the unique characteristics of a scissors lift.
- Use lifts only under proper supervision.
- Before each use, inspect the scissors lift to be sure it is serviceable.
- Check to be sure that the lift is free of defective or damaged parts.
- Be sure that people have and use the access points to the lift.
- Be sure that the platform and working surfaces are free of debris, ice, mud, etc.
- Be sure that the operating area is level, with no holes or depressions.
- Make sure that the guardrails, midrails, and toeboards are installed and the entry gates are latched.
- Ensure that workers are tied off to the lift with a full body harness.

Before you use that scissors lift, take the time to think it out. Use good judgment and common sense. Do not become a statistic simply because you did not think!



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