

Scissor lifts: position for the electrical task

Talk 16 of 52 | Week 16 | Working at height

Leader: adapt this talk to today's electrical work and site procedures. See the educational-use and liability notice on page 2.

START THE CONVERSATION

A crew plans to install a row of fixtures from a scissor lift. Good positioning starts at ground level and considers the ceiling, the floor, the load, and nearby workers.

KEY TALKING POINTS

1. Only trained and authorized workers should use the equipment under the employer's procedures and manufacturer instructions. A scissor lift is not the same as a boom-supported aerial lift; do not transfer operating or protection assumptions from one machine to another.
2. Inspect the equipment and work area before use. Check the planned route for holes, changes in level, obstructions, and other conditions that affect stability. Confirm the load and operating limits for the actual machine and task.
3. Keep workers inside the protected platform and use the required fall-protection arrangements. Do not stand on rails, boxes, or ladders to reach higher. If the work cannot be reached from the intended position, stop and select a suitable setup.
4. Electrical job example: the lift can reach the fixture, but the conduit above it leaves little clearance for the worker. Review the overhead space and crush hazards before elevating. Include the worker's body, tools, and material in the available-clearance discussion.
5. Coordinate floor-level access with other trades. Identify how pedestrians and mobile equipment will be kept out of the operating area. A worker carrying material may not be looking upward, and the lift operator may not see everyone approaching from behind.
6. Discuss the next movement before relocating. Follow the manufacturer's limits on travel, elevation, surface conditions, and outdoor use. If a delivery blocks the approved route, reassess instead of driving onto an unfamiliar surface to get around it.
7. Identify the emergency lowering procedure and who on the ground is trained to assist. Ask how help would reach the machine if the operator becomes unable to act. Keep this a planning discussion; do not demonstrate emergency functions outside the approved training procedure.

ASK THE CREW

1. What overhead obstruction affects this installation?
2. Who can carry out the emergency response for this lift?

BEFORE WORK STARTS

Review the machine, route, overhead clearance, and emergency arrangements before the first elevation.

OSHA SOURCES / FURTHER READING

OSHA: Scissor lifts

Attendance & action record

Scissor lifts: position for the electrical task

Date: _____ Leader: _____

Company / jobsite: _____

Site hazards and controls discussed:

Follow-up action / responsible person / due date:

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Participant name	Signature / acknowledgment

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