

8 Things NOT to do When Operating an Aerial Lift (and 8 Things You Should Do Instead)



Knowing what **NOT** to do while operating an aerial lift, boom lift, or other aerial work platform (AWP) is just as important as knowing what you **SHOULD** do.



WHAT NOT TO DO WHEN OPERATING AN AERIAL LIFT

1. Do not exceed the load capacity limits

taking into account the combined weight of the workers and tools. If in doubt, check the manufacturer's operating manual, or consult with your safety supervisor.

2. Do not use the aerial lift as a crane.

3. Do not carry objects larger than the platform.

4. Do not drive with the lift platform raised

This increases the chance you'll run into overpasses, power lines, and other hazards.

5. Do not operate the lower level controls

unless permission is given from the workers in the bucket or platform.

6. Do not exceed vertical or horizontal limits.

Your aerial lift was designed to operate within a certain set of parameters - exceed them at your own risk!

7. Do not operate the aerial lift in high winds.

When Mother Nature becomes too tough to work with, it's a good idea to wait for more agreeable weather.

8. Do not override the hydraulic, mechanical, or electrical safety devices.



WHAT TO DO WHEN OPERATING AN AERIAL LIFT

1. Assume all electrical wires are live.

This is one case where assumptions are encouraged!

2. Stay at least ten feet away from all power lines and cables.

3. De-energize power lines in the work area.

This is an important step for preventing electrocutions.

4. Be aware of overhead clearances & objects.

Power lines, tree branches, buildings, bridges, and other objects need to be accounted for.

5. Avoid positioning the aerial lift between overhead obstructions.

6. Set outriggers on pads or a level surface

This simple step will help prevent your aerial lift from shifting or swaying during work.

7. Use wheel chocks on sloped surfaces.

Check with your site safety supervisor anytime your aerial lift is parked on sloped surfaces or inclines.

8. Set up work zone warnings like cones and signs.

