



# SAFETY TIP OF THE WEEK

## FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY



Company \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

To encourage all of us to promote safety on a continuing basis, the Builders Exchange publishes a safety tip in each issue of the weekly **Bulletin**. The superintendent/foreman of each job should use this safety tip in a short safety meeting Monday morning. We suggest that this 5-to-10 minute meeting be just before lunch or perhaps right after the morning break. You can then emphasize the SAFETY TIP OF THE WEEK all week long.

### Essential Scissor Lift Safety Tips Part 2 of 2

Week Ending 9/11/20

One of the greatest hazards and most frequent causes of preventable scissor lift accidents is poor stabilization. If the scissor lift is not properly secured, it can make the machine tip over, causing damage to the equipment and crew.

#### Scissor Lift Stabilization for Safe Use

Here are a few rules to follow to ensure your scissor lift does not tip over:

- Always work on firm, level surfaces.
- If your project is on rough terrain, make sure you use a scissor lift specifically made for use in that environment.
- Always lower the work platform completely before moving the equipment.
- Only work in appropriate weather—most outdoor-rated scissor lifts are only approved for use in wind speeds under 28 mph.

On rare occasions, scissor lifts can also collapse, injuring those on and around the equipment. To prevent this:

- Always check the failsafe functions on your machinery before use.
- Never exceed the weight limit listed in the manufacturer's manual.
- Never use other equipment to raise the work platform.

#### How to Safely Position a Scissor Lift

Where and how you position your scissor lift for work can make a huge impact in preventing accidents. When scissor lifts are improperly positioned, crew members can be at risk of getting crushed or electrocuted, so it is essential that workers are trained on how to avoid positioning accidents.

To prevent crushing incidents, use caution any time you have to move the scissor lift. Be sure to clear the surrounding area of people and stay aware of moving vehicles and stationary objects that might be in the moving scissor lift's path. If your worksite is crowded, assign someone to handle traffic control to prevent collisions.

When working on projects that involve or are located near a power source, be sure to maintain a careful distance to prevent electric damage. Always avoid direct contact with power lines, but also remember that electricity can arc from power lines to the equipment or to a worker, even if neither is directly touching the power source. The manufacturer's manual will have a list of safe distances that vary according to the voltage of the source, so always check before you start on a project. Finally, if the project requires working with an electrical source, make sure workers have electrical training.

#### Fall Protection: Do I Need a Harness?

A harness is not required while using a scissor lift. According to OSHA, a properly designed and maintained guardrail system is enough to keep a worker safe while on the scissor lift. However, if the guardrail system is inadequate or the worker leaves the safety of the work platform, an additional fall protection device is required.

Scissor lifts must have guardrails installed around the perimeter of the work platform, and regular maintenance is essential to ensure they do not rust or loosen. Workers should only stand on the work platform, never on the guardrails, and work should be kept close to the scissor lift to avoid having workers lean over the edge of the rails. Additionally, the scissor lift should always be lowered completely to allow workers onto the platform. Never climb up the scissor lift to access the work platform.

#### Scissor Lift Training: Do I Need a License?

There is no special license or certification for operating or working on a scissor lift. However, OSHA requires that employers provide training to workers before using a scissor lift. Site managers must go over standard procedures for scissor lift usage as well as how to handle materials on the scissor lift, other worksite hazards workers may encounter when working on a scissor lift, and how to report equipment defects or necessary maintenance. Employers must also include manufacturer's instructions for operating a scissor lift both vertically and while in transit.

#### Know Your Scissor Lift Inside and Out

Though there are plenty of safety measures that apply to all scissor lifts, the only way to make sure you're taking the correct precautions to keep your crew safe around a scissor lift is to fully familiarize yourself with the particular make and model as well as the type of scissor lift that you're using. Though certain warnings are applicable across the board, each piece of equipment has different weight limits, specifications, and hazard warnings. There should also be a legend in the manufacturer's manual to help interpret the meaning of various warning decals on the scissor lift.

Of course, the best way to be absolutely certain of your safety when using a scissor lift is to work with a professional. Opting to rent a scissor lift from a reputable dealer guarantees that your machinery is well-maintained, inspected regularly, and gives you the opportunity to talk with an expert and ask any questions you may have about operating your rental. Renting can often be a smart financial decision, but it is a good safety precaution, too.

Special Topics for this Job: \_\_\_\_\_

MSDS # \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed – Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Present at Meeting:

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Supervisor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: These SAFETY TIPS OF THE WEEK are to help members provide a safe workplace and to instruct employees in ways to prevent accidents. Ensure you record the names of those who attend your safety meetings, and file this form with your permanent accident prevention records.