

Scissor lifts are an excellent alternative to ladders and manually propelled scaffolds. They provide a safe and stable work platform when used in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations.

OSHA Standard 1926.21(b)(2) *The employer shall instruct each employee in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and the regulations applicable to his work environment to control or eliminate any hazards or other exposure to illness or injury.*

(*1)

Only trained and authorized operators can use scissor lifts! Employees must receive training in the safe operation of the lifts so they will understand and avoid unsafe conditions that could lead to injuries.



OSHA Standard 1926.452(w)(5) *Scaffolds shall be stabilized to prevent tipping during movement.*

OSHA Standard 1926.452(w)(6) *Employees shall not be allowed to ride on scaffolds unless... the surface on which the scaffold is being moved is within 3 degrees of level, and free of pits, holes, and obstructions.*



*Image from a fatality investigation where a 42-year-old part-time laborer was killed when the scissor lift he was operating elevated and pinned him against the header of an interior doorway. NIOSH In-house FACE Report 2003-01 (*6)*



*Images from a fatality investigation where a painter died when his elevated scissor lift tipped and fell over after he moved it into a storm drain. (*4, *5)*

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS WHEN WORKING WITH SCISSOR LIFTS:

- Never sit or climb on the edge of the basket or use planks, ladders, or other devices on a scissor lift.
- Ensure guard rails, safety chains, and gates are closed and locked for proper fall protection when operating a lift.
- Look for overhead power lines and electricity lines before and during lift operation. Danger signs should be posted.
- Only use lifts that you are trained and authorized to use.
- Survey the area to identify and avoid potential curbs, pot-holes, excavations, or floor holes. Never use on uneven surfaces.
- Never alter or disable warning devices or limit switches.
- Many scissor lifts are equipped with controls that can be used from the ground so you can maneuver the lift through tight areas safely.



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