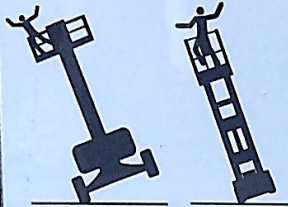



Workers using a scissor lift on the exterior of a building. (*1)

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.

This safety topic is intended to help workers recognize and avoid some of the dangers of working with scissor lifts.

⚠ DANGER	
	Tip-over Hazard Altering or disabling limit switches can result in machine tip-over. Machine tip-over will result in death or serious injury.
	Do not alter or disable limit switch(s).
31060 C	

- **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.
- Common hazards found with scissor lifts include:
 - Electrocution from accidental contact with energized wires
 - Tip-over hazards from driving on steep or unstable surfaces
 - Collisions or struck-against hazards
 - Fall hazards from improper use of the lifts

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.*



*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 (*2)*



- Always look for overhead power lines and electricity lines feeding adjacent buildings and structures. Danger signs should be posted warning scissor lift operators of potential hazards.



*Example of danger signs posted near the construction site to alert lift operators of overhead power lines. (*3)*

➤ Avoid tip-over hazards!

- **Never alter or disable warning devices** or limit switches – they are there to help avoid tip-over hazards.
- **Survey the area** where the lift will be used before moving or driving the lift to identify and avoid potential hazards such as curbs, pot-holes, excavations, or floor-holes.
- Never use a scissor lift on uneven surfaces.

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.*



*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. MIFACE Investigation Report: #13MI091 (*4, *5)*

➤ Remember these important 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 an 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.
- 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.
- Many scissor lifts are equipped with controls that can be used from the ground so you can maneuver the lift through tight areas safely.



*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)*

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