

Lift Smart, Get Home Safe: Scissor Lifts — Hazards, PPE & Training

We want you home for dinner—every day. You matter to your family, to this crew, and to this company. That’s why we slow down for a minute, sharpen the plan, and run the lift like pros.

Scissor lifts are great tools when we respect their limits: solid ground, the right gear, and trained hands on the controls. When we get that right, the day runs smoother—fewer stops, fewer scares, better work.

Today let’s tighten up what “lift smart, home safe” looks like. We’ll name the hazards, set the gear, and confirm the training so everyone who goes up comes back down the way they started.

Q&A Focus (Remember, questions hook the mind)

Hazards (ask, listen, then confirm):

- **Q:** What could hurt you fastest on a scissor lift *today* on this site?
A: Mechanical failure/crushing; energy (electrical contact, hydraulic/kinetic); human factors (inexperience, rushing); work at heights; environmental (uneven/soft ground, landscaping, debris).
- **Q:** If the lift tipped or jolted, what’s the chain of events that gets you hurt?
A: Unstable ground/slope → overload/overreach → loss of balance/ejection → fall/struck-by.
- **Q:** What’s the silent hazard we forget when we’re focused on the task?
A: **Overhead power lines**—minimum **3 m (10 ft)** unless the unit, training, and permits allow live-line work.

Brief coach’s note (conversational): Hazards don’t care how tight the deadline is. We spot them together and remove the guesswork before anyone rides up.

PPE (lock it in):

- **Q:** What’s non-negotiable before we elevate?
A: **Fall protection—harness + lanyard, safety footwear, hard hat, high-vis (CSA/ANSI).** Clip to the **approved anchor**; set lanyard length to **prevent ejection**.
- **Q:** What single PPE mistake sends people to the hospital?
A: Working beyond guardrails without being **clipped in**.

Training & authorization (no passengers at the controls):

- **Q:** Who can operate *this* scissor lift today?
A: Only **trained and authorized** operators for this type/model, carrying **proof of training**.
- **Q:** When do we retrain?
A: When **hazards change**, the **lift type** changes, performance slips, or at employer/authority intervals.

Brief coach’s note (conversational): Training isn’t red tape—it’s how we keep each other in one piece. If you’re not sure about a control or a limit, say it. We’ll sort it out together.

TOOL BOX TALK



Before use (site and machine checks):

- **Q:** Name three checks before we go up.
A: **Level/solid surface** and slope within OEM limits; **holes/drop-offs/debris** cleared; **cones/signs** for traffic; **power line** clearance verified.
- **Q:** Daily machine items you must touch with your own eyes/hands?
A: Tires/wheels, fluids, hoses/connectors, structure, placards/decals, alarms/lights, platform floor, **fall-protection points, controls.**

Operating rules (make it stick):

- **Q:** Give two “Do’s” that make you a pro in the air.
A (Do): Close chains/doors; stay **within rated load**; **secure tools/materials**; **3-point contact** on/off.
- **Q:** Give two “Never’s” that keep you alive.
A (Never): **Drive raised**; **climb/lean over rails** or use **ladders/boxes** in the basket; **bridge gaps**; **override safety devices**; **push/pull/drag** loads with the platform.
- **Q:** Wind picks up or a control/alarm acts weird—what’s the call?
A: **Stop, lower, remove from service** until a **qualified** person clears it.

Emergency & lone work:

- **Q:** When can ground controls be used with someone elevated?
A: Only if **platform controls fail** or **emergency rescue** is required.
- **Q:** Lone worker in the basket—what must they have?
A: **Communication** (phone/radio) and **self-rescue capability/training.**

30-second scenario (make it real): Someone drops a ladder in the basket to “just reach that last bit.” **What do you do?**

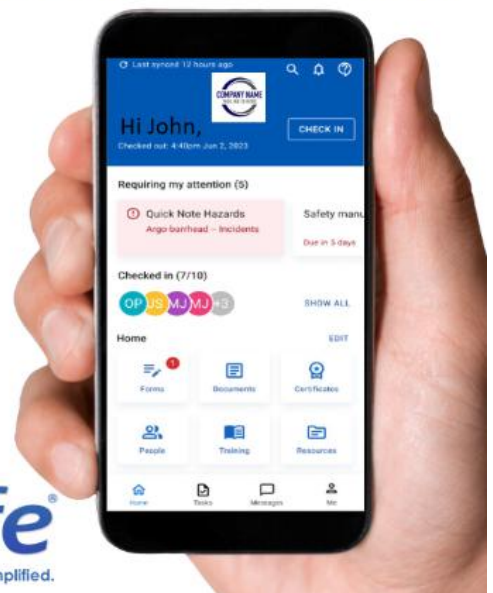
Answer: **Stop the job**, re-position or choose the right equipment, review reach limits and fall protection. No shortcuts—your life is worth more than a minute saved.

Close-out (from the heart): You matter. Your family matters. We want you home safe tonight and every night. Call out what you see, clip in, and run the plan. That’s how pros work—and how we all get home.

Facilitator, remember to:

1. Ask for the commitment of your employees,
2. Answer all questions,
3. Thank them for their time and document that this safety talk occurred.

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