

Toolbox Talks 2

087: Unsafe Conditions: Elevations

Discussion leader duties for this session:

Review company safety policies related to ladders, scaffolding, scissor lifts, and other equipment for elevated work.

What this Safety Talk covers:

This Safety Talk addresses conditions that make work on elevations unsafe.

Discussion notes:

Unsafe conditions involving elevations

- No means of lifting tools and materials to the elevated location. You may be tempted to carry items up a ladder. Don't. Rig up a lifting means, such as a bucket and rope. With a scissor lift, of course, this problem doesn't exist.
- Elevated platform isn't secure. If scaffolding boards aren't fastened securely in place, don't use that scaffolding until the problem is corrected. Don't use a scissor lift until the outriggers are properly deployed.
- Portable ladder provided on scaffolding or scissor lift. Remove the ladder.
- Work area is above energized equipment or potentially dangerous processes. Don't use the platform unless a barrier is in place or the hazard can be removed.
- Work area is above combustibles. Don't use the platform until provisions have been made for emergency egress from the platform or neutralizing the fire hazard.
- No eyes or structural members available for securing lanyards. This presents a major problem. Contact your foreman about the lack of securing means. The fix may involve welding something in place. Don't use process pipes, raceways, or other objects just because they are there.
- Lift is too far to one side from work. Rather than lean over the railings, move the lift. If it can't get close enough, contact your foreman and find another way to reach the work spot.
- Platform isn't high enough. If the lift won't go any higher, contact your foreman and find another way to reach the work spot.
- Materials have accumulated. Keep the floors of lifts, scaffolding, and other elevated platforms free of clutter. Keep tools in pouches, buckets, or other holders. Place scrap wire, insulation, and tape in a container brought along for that purpose.
- Your scissor lift is in a trafficway. Rope off the route, so that lift trucks don't hit your lift. You also don't want people walking below you, in case you drop something.

Review and discussion

1. If you can reach an elevated work area only by ladder, how do you get tools and parts to where you're working?
2. How do you ensure scaffolding is secure?
3. How do you protect a scissor lift from toppling over?
4. What should you do with a ladder that someone left on the floor of the scissor lift you're about to use?
5. If you have to work above energized equipment or dangerous processes, what protection do you need?

6. If the work area is located over combustibles, what protection do you need?
7. What should you do if there are no eyes or structural members available for securing lanyards?
8. What should you do if your platform won't reach far enough to one side?
9. What should you do if your platform isn't high enough to reach the work?
10. What should you do if your platform is in a trafficway?

Participant's Signature and Date

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