

Scissor Lift Safety

Professional downloadable safety training

TRAINING OUTCOME

Recognize fall, tip-over, crushing, electrical and falling-object hazards

AUDIENCE

Scissor-lift users

TIME

30-40 min

REFERENCE

OSHA scissor lift guidance / applicable scaffold & training requirements

USE NOTE

General/formal instruction. The employer must provide equipment-specific training, manufacturer instructions and verify safe operation for the actual lift and workplace.

Start with the hazard. Build the safe decision.

Use this slide to connect the topic to what employees actually see, touch, drive or do.

Five major hazard groups

Falls from the platform.

Pre-use and work-area inspection

Inspect controls, emergency lowering, guardrails/gates, tires, leaks, alarms and safety devices.

Stable setup

Use only on surfaces and slopes permitted by the manufacturer.

ASK THE ROOM

01

Where could this go wrong here?

02

What control keeps us safe?

03

What should make us stop?

What employees should be able to do

Keep the session practical: recognize the hazard, choose the control, know when to stop.

01

Recognize fall, tip-over, crushing, electrical and falling-object hazards

02

Complete a pre-use/work-area inspection

03

Position, elevate, travel and lower the lift safely

04

Apply manufacturer, site and weather/wind restrictions

Five major hazard groups

Start with what the employee is exposed to.

- Falls from the platform.
- Tip-over/collapse from unstable setup, overload or environmental conditions.
- Crushing/entrapment against overhead structures.
- Electrical contact with energized conductors.
- Falling objects striking people below.

FIELD DECISION

01

Where could this fail?

02

What control do we use?

03

What makes us stop?

Pre-use and work-area inspection

Tie every point to a visible action or decision.

- Inspect controls, emergency lowering, guardrails/gates, tires, leaks, alarms and safety devices.
- Inspect the floor/ground for holes, drop-offs, slopes, debris and weak surfaces.
- Identify overhead power, beams, piping and moving equipment.

FIELD DECISION

01

What changes the risk?

02

What must the employee do?

03

Who needs to know?

Stable setup

Tie every point to a visible action or decision.

- Use only on surfaces and slopes permitted by the manufacturer.
- Do not exceed platform capacity or use makeshift devices to gain height.
- Do not move the lift in a way prohibited by the manufacturer when elevated.

FIELD DECISION

01

Where could this fail?

02

What control do we use?

03

What makes us stop?

Falls and body position

Tie every point to a visible action or decision.

- Keep gates/rails in place and maintain firm footing on the platform.
- Do not climb or stand on guardrails.
- Use fall protection only as required by applicable rules, manufacturer instructions and employer program; use approved anchorage only.

FIELD DECISION

01

What changes the risk?

02

What must the employee do?

03

Who needs to know?

Crushing and electrical

Tie every point to a visible action or decision.

- Keep adequate clearance from overhead structures and energized lines.
- Use a spotter/ground guide where visibility is limited.
- Move slowly in congested areas and avoid trapping the operator between platform controls and structure.

FIELD DECISION

01

Where could this fail?

02

What control do we use?

03

What makes us stop?

Weather and emergency response

Tie every point to a visible action or decision.

- Follow manufacturer wind limits and remove the lift from service in unsafe weather.
- Know emergency stop/lowering procedures.
- Keep the area below controlled when falling objects are possible.

FIELD DECISION

01

What changes the risk?

02

What must the employee do?

03

Who needs to know?

These are the moments to slow down and regain control.

01

Guardrail/gate or control is damaged

02

Lift is on an unapproved slope or unstable surface

03

Wind/environmental conditions exceed manufacturer limits

04

Operator is climbing on rails or working close to power/overhead structure without clearance

What would you do next?

Give the group 30-60 seconds before revealing the recommended response.

A scissor lift is fully elevated outdoors and wind begins gusting strongly. The operator is below the manufacturer's rated platform capacity. What should happen?

RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

Capacity alone does not make the situation safe. Follow the manufacturer wind limit and employer procedure; lower and discontinue use if conditions are outside safe limits.

DISCUSS

01

What is the hazard?

02

What control is missing?

03

What is the safest next action?

04

What is our site rule?

This is where generic training becomes your program.

Replace examples with your actual equipment, procedures, hazards and expectations.



Actual lift model, controls, emergency lowering and manufacturer limits



Indoor/outdoor surface and wind rules



Electrical clearance and overhead-crush controls



Site traffic/pedestrian barricades and rescue response

BEFORE WORK

01

Show the actual procedure

02

Show the actual
equipment/task

03

Confirm questions are
answered

04

Complete required evaluation

Can the employee apply it?

Written knowledge matters. Safe performance in the real workplace matters more.

☐ Performs pre-use inspection

☐ Inspects floor/ground and overhead area

☐ Uses gate/guardrails correctly

☐ Maintains safe body position

☐ Controls travel/elevation smoothly

☐ Maintains overhead/electrical clearance

☐ Applies site barricade/spotter rules

☐ Demonstrates emergency stop/lowering

Use the included evaluation form when hands-on demonstration or workplace verification is appropriate or required.

Knowledge check 1-5

Use the printable test in the course package for employee responses.

1 A scissor lift can tip because of:

2 The platform guardrails are intended to:

3 Before elevating, the operator should inspect:

4 Standing on the guardrail to gain extra height is:

5 Wind limits should come from:

Knowledge check 6-10

Use the printable test in the course package for employee responses.

6

Overhead crushing hazards require:

7

Electrical hazards should be controlled by:

8

People below the lift should:

9

Emergency lowering controls should be:

10

This course alone qualifies an employee on every scissor-lift model.

Know the hazard. Use the control. Stop when it is not right.

- 01 Recognize fall, tip-over, crushing, electrical and falling-object hazards
- 02 Guardrail/gate or control is damaged
- 03 Actual lift model, controls, emergency lowering and manufacturer limits

NEXT STEPS

- 01 Answer questions
- 02 Complete site-specific training
- 03 Complete required hands-on evaluation
- 04 Document attendance/completion

Use this package as a strong training foundation.

Always align the material to current requirements, manufacturer instructions and your own procedures.

Primary reference

OSHA scissor lift guidance / applicable scaffold & training requirements

Training use note

General/formal instruction. The employer must provide equipment-specific training, manufacturer instructions and verify safe operation for the actual lift and workplace.

BEFORE YOU DELIVER

- ✓ Confirm current OSHA/state-plan requirements
- ✓ Insert your procedures and equipment information
- ✓ Use qualified/competent trainers where required
- ✓ Complete practical/workplace evaluation where required
- ✓ Keep training and authorization records

<https://www.osha.gov/etools/scaffolding/scissor-lifts/>