

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

ELEVATING WORK PLATFORMS *Page 1 of 2*

**This information does not take precedence over OH&S. All employees should be familiar with the Saskatchewan Employment Act and the OH&S Regulations.*

Check the job site for:

- Ditches; debris; drop-offs or holes; untamped earth fills; bumps and obstructions; overhead obstructions.

Inspect platform at the beginning of each shift for:

- Uncontrolled motion;
- Loose connections or missing fasteners;
- Improper adjustments;
- Cracked welds;
- Broken or frayed wire ropes;
- Inefficient brakes;
- Poor tire condition and pressure;
- Missing load capacity postings;
- Damaged electrical wires or hydraulic or pneumatic lines.

Before raising or moving the platform:

- Check for overhead obstructions and electrical wires. Regulations set minimum distances that platforms must be from electrical wires.
- Place on a firm and level surface only.
- Position outriggers or stabilizers.
- Install platform guardrails properly and check that gates or openings are closed.
- Ensure that ropes, electrical cords and hoses will not entangle in the work platform.
- Clear area around platform of workers when raising or lowering platform.
- Ensure barriers on scissor type lifting mechanisms are in place to prevent entry.
- Load platform evenly according to manufacturer's instructions.

Using and elevating work platform:

- Have proper training before operating controls on a job.
- Tow only vehicles that are designed specifically for that use.
- Wear a safety harness that is fixed to a platform attachment point.
- Maintain three point-contact when getting on or off the platform.
- Look in direction of travel and ensure that path is firm and level.
- Maintain firm footing on platform.
- Measure the distance to electrical wires and minimum clearance distances.

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DON'T:

- Extend platform capacity.
- Enter or leave an elevated platform.
- Use planks, ladders or other devices on the platform to gain extra height.
- Stand on guardrails to gain extra height.
- Lean over platform railing.
- Climb up or down extensions or scissor areas.
- Use a defective platform.
- Use platform as a jack.
- Use guardrails to carry materials unless designed for this purpose.
- Lift overhanging loads.
- Use platform for pulling, pushing or dragging materials.
- Use platform without guardrails in place.

