

MCAA Toolbox Safety Talks

Fall Prevention for Scissors Lifts



We experience a significant number of falls from scissors lifts in the mechanical industry, so let's go over a few of the old and some of the new fall prevention practices.

- Scissors lifts are usually equipped with guardrail systems that include top-rails, mid-rails and toeboards.
- Check the guardrail system out before you use the lift. Make sure it is securely in place and in good condition.
- Guardrail systems on the lifts have either gates or chains to protect workers from falling through the entrance and exit opening. Make sure the gate or chain is secured in the closed position before you start to use the lift.
- Many scissors lift manufacturers are recommending the use of a personal fall restraint system made up of a full body harness, lanyard, locking snaphooks and an anchorage point. The idea is to keep you from getting into a position where you could fall, not to protect you if you do fall. The lanyard should be just long enough to allow you to move around the lift, but not long enough to allow you step up on the mid-rail. Never use a lanyard with a deceleration device for fall restraint.
- Never use a personal fall restraint system on a scissors lift unless the manufacturer recommends that you do so. Anchor your lanyard only to the manufacturer's designated anchorage points and be sure to use only the locking type snaphooks with your system.
- Never step up on or lean out over a mid-rail or top-rail and never use planks, boxes, buckets, ladders or other materials to increase your height or reach from a lift.