

## Aerial Work Platform (AWP) Safety Devices

- Employers are responsible for training AWP operators on the safe use of AWP, including safety devices.
- Before the use of an AWP, employers need to make sure the operator conducts a pre-start inspection. This should consist of at least a visual inspection and functional test of the equipment and any safety devices.
- It is important that operators always refer to the Operator's Manual (kept on the machine) as a reference when performing a pre-start inspection. Failure to do so could result in death or serious injury.

NOTE: Operator's Manuals may or may not identify all safety devices or operating systems designed into the AWP as a safety device.

- Safety devices are designed to minimize the risk of an incident or near miss event. However, they are not meant to serve in place of appropriate training. Employers must train workers and supply them with the appropriate safety devices to effectively keep them safe.
- Safety devices may not be altered or modified in any way.

Below is a list of safety devices used with AWP and is by no means a complete list. Some definitions may vary from the AWP manufacturer's definitions or descriptions.

### **AWP Safety Devices**

- 1) Emergency Stop: Red button located on the upper platform and lower ground controls. When depressed, this cuts all power to the unit and stops all functions. When pulled out, this allows the lift to be started or operated.
- 2) Tilt Alarm: An audible warning device, located on the platform, which makes the operator aware of when the lift is about to exceed the manufacturer's maximum slope rating.
- 3) Function Enable: A control device that must be simultaneously engaged with a control function to allow operation from either the upper platform controls or the lower ground controls. The enable device can be a foot switch (pedal), a button, a trigger switch on a control handle, or a toggle switch.
- 4) Detent: The integral mechanism of a joystick controller that prevents inadvertent movement of the joystick until lifted.

- 5) Limit Switch: A mechanical or electrical device intended to limit movement of a particular AWP component or function, such as preventing the raising of the boom above a certain point if the extendible axles or outriggers are not deployed, engaged or extended fully.
- 6) Guard Rails: Vertical barriers primarily intended to protect against personnel falling to lower levels from a platform. Many guardrails are removable or collapsible for transportation and entry/egress through doorways and into elevators. All guardrails must be in place and properly secured before operating any AWP. This includes gates, mid-rail slide bars, and chains used to temporarily open or close a platform entry point.
- 7) Anchorage: Secure points of attachment on the platform used strictly as points for attachment of personal fall protection equipment (i.e. fall restraint, fall arrest).
- 8) Placards: Decals, stickers or labels that convey important safety, instructional, or machine information.
- 9) Pot Hole Protection (PHP): A structural safety device designed to help prevent slab AWP's from tipping over by occupying the space between the ground surface and the horizontal bottom edge of the machine chassis/base. PHP deploys when the lift is elevated beyond a certain limit. Care should be taken to ensure hands and feet are clear before lift function is initiated. Driving and/or lifting to full height may be limited if PHP is not deployed fully.
- 10) Scissor Arm Prop: A structural device used to support a scissor lift platform in the elevated position while inspections, repairs or maintenance are performed.
- 11) Emergency Lowering Controls or Auxiliary Power/Lowering: A mechanical or hydraulic system used to lower the platform in the event of primary power loss.
- 12) Audible Warning Devices: An audible device that can be activated by the operator from the upper controls to warn others or a device that alarms when the AWP is in motion (e.g. driving, lifting, lowering, rotating, extending or retracting).
- 13) Warning Indicator Lights: Devices that inform the operator of various machine conditions (e.g. fuel level, axle position, outrigger deployment, warnings, tilt/level sensor, foot switch activation, etc.).
- 14) Drive Orientation Override or Drive Enable: A device that disables driving ability when a boom lift is rotated past one of the drive tires, or out of the travel position, to prevent driving the lift in a direction opposite what the operator intended. Once the operator has confirmed the direction of travel, they can enable drive using a designated control.
- 15) Flashing Beacons or Strobes: A rotating or flashing device that is activated when the lift is powered to warn others in the area of its presence.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, [employers are responsible](#) for providing a safe and healthy workplace and [workers have rights](#). OSHA can help answer questions or concerns from employers and workers. OSHA's [On-site Consultation Program](#) offers free and confidential advice to small and medium-sized businesses, with priority given to high-hazard worksites. For more information, contact your [regional or area OSHA office](#), call 1-800-321-OSHA (6742), or visit [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov) .

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