

MEWP Hazards

Aerial lift usage has inherent risks including the risk of falls, tip-over, exposure to overhead power lines, struck-by or caught-between, and other hazards.

Add in the element of inclement weather such as high winds, rain, lightning, or cold temperatures and the risk of injury or even fatality is further increased.

Weather Hazards

- Wind** – The higher the lift is raised the higher the center of gravity. Wind pushes upon the lift and increases lateral stress on the equipment as well as the support system increasing risk of tip-over.
- Rain** – Rain can make platform surfaces slippery increasing risk of slip and fall.
- Lightning** – Lightning can strike from as far as 10 miles away. The weather may appear fine where the lift is in use but depending on atmospheric conditions, workers in the lift may still be exposed.
- Cold** – When temperatures are cold wind chill becomes a factor. Workers are not shielded from the wind and may experience frostnip and frostbite.
- Heat** – Excessive heat exposure due to lack of shade can lead to dehydration, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke, a serious medical emergency.

Safe Work Practices

- Check the weather forecast before heading out to work and dress appropriately.
- If cold, rain, lightning, or excessive winds are predicted, consider postponing lift usage until the weather clears.
- If lightning activity is occurring within 10 miles of the work site or wind gusts are above 25mph, bring the lifts to the ground and seek shelter or an indoor task.
- A 'rule-of-thumb' to measure the distance of the lightning, count the seconds from the flash to the bang and divide by 5 to obtain the approximate distance in miles.
- Limit time of exposure to extreme temperatures. Rotate personnel if necessary.
- Provide frequent warming (cold) and cooling (hot) breaks as necessary and maintain hydration to reduce risk of dehydration.



FOCUS 1

FOCUS 2

FOCUS 3