



Aerial Work Platforms



Aerial work platforms (AWP) are pieces of equipment used in the performing arts to raise a person to the height necessary to adjust lighting instruments, move curtains, reach out-of-the-way places, etc.

All operators must receive formal and documented training on each type of AWP. You must be authorized prior to operating an AWP.

The following codes of safe practices are general guidelines. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions for specific operating instructions.

Use Guidelines

1. Lock off, chain off, or lock away all AWP's when not in use to prevent unauthorized use.
2. Inspect all parts before and after the use of the AWP. Immediately report any missing, broken, or defective parts. The supervisor will determine if the lift should be used.
3. Check the area in which the AWP is to be used for possible hazards such as drop areas, holes, floor obstructions, and overhead obstructions.
4. Ensure the outriggers are deployed and properly placed for all AWP equipped with outriggers. This is critical for the prevention of tip-over incidents.
5. Immediately report any potentially hazardous conditions that become evident during operation.
6. Know how to operate the manual emergency descent controls. Keep in mind each AWP is different, as are the controls. Some are manual handles located at the base of the lift while others are valves that are opened in a designated order to lower the boom.
7. Wear the required personal protective equipment when on the lifts. Talk to your supervisor or instructor if you do not know the requirements.
8. Follow the manufacturer's safety guidelines regarding the use of fall restraint and/or fall protection devices as the requirements differ depending on the size and design of the AWP. Contact the EH&S Department if you have questions.
9. Always maintain a three-point contact when getting on and off the AWP – two feet one hand or two hands one foot.
10. Always face the AWP when getting on and off.
11. Always lower the basket completely to the ground before getting on or off.
12. Always maintain a firm footing while on the platform floor.
13. Never use planks, ladders, or any other devices on the AWP to achieve additional height or reach.
14. Never stand or climb on the guardrails.
15. Never exceed rated capacities. Rated capacity includes the combined weight of all persons, tools, and

materials.

16. Never exceed the maximum allowable persons in the platform.
17. Never exceed the maximum allowable persons on the deck extension of a scissor lift.
18. Never ride the AWP while it is elevated unless the equipment is designed to do so and all manufacturer instructions outlining the process are followed. There are a variety of self-propelled AWP units that are designed to be driven with an individual elevated on the platform. Please note, manual “push around” AWP units are typically NOT designed to be moved with someone at height and should never be used in this manner unless the manufacturer instructions specifically state it is safe to do so. The following general conditions must be met to drive a self-propelled AWP at height:
 - a. The travel speed at Maximum Travel Height does not exceed 3 feet (0.9m) per second (creep mode).
 - b. Self-propelled units are equipped with electrical or other interlock means that will prevent driving them with the platform height greater than the Maximum Travel Height or at speeds greater than permitted at Maximum Travel Height. Review to the manufacturer’s guidelines for your unit.
 - c. The surface upon which the unit is being operated is level with no hazardous irregularities or accumulation of debris that might cause a moving platform to overturn.

Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions regarding the use of the AWP while elevated.

Talk to your supervisor if you have any questions about this information.