

U.S. Department of Labor
Mine Safety and Health Administration
Protecting Miners' Safety and Health Since 1978

SAFETY HAZARD ALERT

Since 1995, there have been 13 fatalities associated with man lifts and bucket trucks. Of these 13 fatalities, 5 occurred at coal mines. The fatalities resulted from fall of persons, roll over, electrocution and crushing incidents. Although man lifts and bucket trucks are different types of equipment, many times they are used for the same purpose and have similar hazards.

In July 2006 and December 2008, two similar fatal crushing accidents occurred at mine sites while operating a man-lift. Both instances occurred while attempting to reposition the man lift work platform which had become wedged. Devastating results occurred when the platform suddenly released.

While appearing simple to use, the operation of man lifts and bucket trucks poses an extreme hazard, especially when operated in confined areas.



When operating a man lift or bucket truck, follow these safety practices:

Use the equipment **ONLY** for its intended purpose.

Operate the equipment in tight quarters **ONLY** as per the manufacturer's recommendations.

When operating equipment from the bucket or platform, always wear a safety harness and safety line.

Always look in the direction of movement and exercise caution in close areas.

Use low speed function when in restricted or close quarters.

Use caution when working near energized power lines.

Fully stabilize the man lift or bucket truck before use.

Become fully acquainted with the equipment and get adequate training on its safe operation **BEFORE** beginning the task.

Before beginning the task, use the "SLAM" Risk assessment technique for the job at hand.