

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE
FORK LIFT, AERIAL LIFT,
& SCISSOR LIFT POLICY

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Each year, thousands of injuries related to forklifts, aerial lifts and scissor lifts occur in US workplaces, some of them fatal. Many employees are injured when lift trucks are inadvertently driven off loading docks; when lifts tip over when driven too fast or on uneven terrain; when elevated lifts strike live electrical wires and are electrocuted; or when they are struck by a lift truck operated by others.

Electrocutions, falls, and tipovers cause most of the fatalities. Other causes include being caught between the lift bucket or guardrail and an object (such as steel beams or joists) or being struck by falling objects. Most of the workers killed are electricians, laborers, painters, ironworkers, or carpenters.

Unfortunately, most employee injuries and property damage can be attributed to a lack of safe operating procedures, a lack of safety enforcement, and insufficient or inadequate training. OSHA states that all employees that operate fork lifts, aerial lifts and scissor lifts, shall be properly trained and certified by their employer prior to operating the equipment. The training shall include, at a minimum, a demonstrated proficiency in operating the equipment. Training documentation shall be maintained by the employer.

Providence College complies with OSHA regulations by training and certifying all employees who are expected to operate any type of fork lift, aerial lift or scissor lift on campus. Training consists of both classroom training, which covers how to safely operate the lift given the site specific terrain; and hands on training, which allows employees to demonstrate their operating proficiency. Providence College also requires any outside contractor who operates a lift on campus to show evidence of training and certification prior to beginning their work. Also, prior to renting an aerial lift, the renter should be sure the lift is properly inspected and serviced before rental; be sure that the operator and maintenance manuals are provided; and be sure that the operator controls are easy to read and properly marked.

If you have any questions about operating fork, scissor or aerial lifts on campus, the OSHA regulations, or lift safety in general, contact the Office of Environmental, Health and Safety.