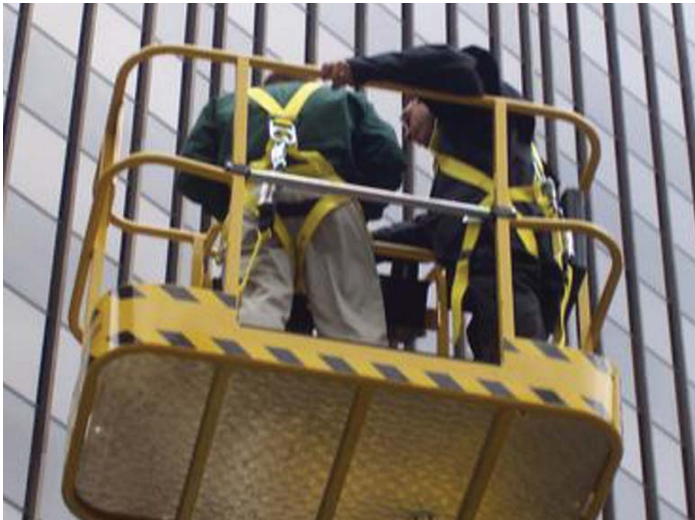


Only dummies don't wear harnesses on booms

Why do some aerial work platform operators seem to be so dumb, particularly those who don't wear harnesses on boom type platforms? Don't they recognize the danger they are putting themselves into? Don't they realize that they could be catapulted out of the platform if something unexpected happened?



AWPT is running dramatic demonstrations on the dangers of not wearing a harness in boom type platforms, daily at 10:00am, 12:00 noon, 1:00pm, 2:00pm and 4:00pm on Booth SZ1000.

It only takes a moment and you don't need to be at any great height. The ground beneath the machine could give way, or the machine could be driven into a pothole or over a ground level obstacle, causing the platform to jolt

violently. Or a vehicle, crane or object could hit the machine. If one of these events occurs, the jarring forces transferred through the boom to the platform are so strong that two grown men not wearing harnesses can be easily catapulted out of the platform, often with deadly results. Wearing a harness and short lanyard saves lives. Although aerial

platforms are basically a safe way of working at height, harnesses are a way of guarding against this known risk and make working at height even safer. It is an OSHA and ANSI requirement to wear a harness while occupying a boom lift, so it isn't optional for the operator to begin with. Nonetheless, it is a daily occurrence to see operators in boom lifts without a harness on. So if wearing harnesses makes operating boom type platforms safer, why aren't boom operators wearing them? One reason is that some people have not been properly trained to use aerial platforms correctly.

These machines are deceptively easy to use - push this lever and it goes up, push that one and it goes down. As a consequence, too often only the basic familiarization of the machine is provided, incorrectly accepting this as training.

Then, as the saying goes: "A little knowledge can be a dangerous

thing." A specialized piece of equipment in the hands of an unqualified person can be dangerous to both the operator and the people around him or her.

An untrained operator does not know how to perform a pre-start inspection before each use. He does not know that he must perform a site inspection to check the ground conditions for items like drop-offs, holes, and debris in the area. He does not know how to use outriggers, stabilizers or spreader pads correctly. An untrained operator may not know that there could be blind spots during operation that must be checked. And he does not know that he should wear a full body harness with a short restraint lanyard attached to a suitable anchor point. These are some of the vital things that can help prevent accidents or save lives if accidents do occur.

Another reason that some people don't wear harnesses when they should is false bravado. "I don't need a harness for a quick job; I've used these machines lots of times and I've never needed a harness"; or "I'm not going to climb on the guard rails or lean out, so I don't need one" is often heard on sites. These people think that they are being fearless by not harnessing up and clipping on. What they don't realise is that they are placing themselves at an incredible risk and that one sudden unexpected movement of the boom could end their lives. And all this could have been prevented if they had simply buckled up and clipped on.

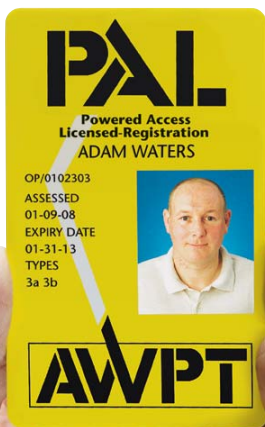
Harnesses with restraint lanyards set as short as possible should be worn on boom type platforms to stop the operator from getting into a position where he can fall. It is also important to check the lanyard for damage before each use. Lanyard damage, especially abrasion, can seriously compromise performance. Ideally, each operator should be responsible for his own harness. Lanyards must always be attached to a manufacturer provided attachment point and not be attached to anything outside the basket of the boom. In certain rare circumstances, the wearing of harnesses in a boom

type platform may not be the safest option. For example, in low-level work over water where there is an associated risk of drowning if the aerial device were to tip over

into the water, the general advice to wear harnesses in boom type platforms may be overruled. The most important thing to do is to perform a job-specific risk assessment before starting any work.

"Only dummies don't wear harnesses on booms" will occur literally during IPAF's live demonstrations at the CONEXPO Safety Zone (Booth SZ1000). IPAF will show the impact on a manikin not wearing a harness during operation of a boom lift. You will see with your own eyes and leave saying to yourself - "Don't be a dummy - Click-It".

Increased aerial platform safety is the goal of the not-for profit International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) and its North American subsidiary, Aerial Work Platform Training (AWPT). Promoting the use of harnesses in boom type platforms is part of that goal. In response to concerns from industry and safety authorities, IPAF developed simple guidance notes on when and how to use harnesses. This policy is outlined in technical guidance note H1 (available at the Publications sections of www.ipaf.org and www.awpt.org). Last year, rental members of IPAF were so frustrated with the number of unnecessary deaths caused by people not wearing harnesses in boom type platforms that they got together to take action. The Clunk Click campaign was launched. This initiative is centered around a brightly coloured sticker that is placed in the platform to remind people to wear a harness in a boom lift. Thousands of posters and stickers have been printed in different languages and distributed through rental companies, safety authorities and equipment manufacturers that support the program. The campaign has reached countries including Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the US, with the North American version, Click It!



Sólo unos tontos maniqués no utilizan arnés en plataformas aéreas de brazo

¿Por qué algunos operadores de las plataformas aéreas de trabajo parecen ser tan tontos, en particular aquellos que no utilizan el arnés en plataformas aéreas de brazo? ¿No reconocen el peligro al que se están exponiendo? ¿No se dan cuenta de que podrían ser catapultados fuera de la plataforma al chocar con algo inesperado?



Wearing a harness is easy and is the mark of professional trained platform operators

El efecto catapulta sucede en un momento y puede pasar tanto cuando te encuentras en altura como cuando estás con el brazo recogido. Un deslizamiento del suelo, un bache o un obstáculo sobre el nivel del suelo, puede sacudir violentamente la plataforma. También un choque con un vehículo, una grúa o un objeto. Si uno de estos eventos ocurre, las fuerzas transferidas a través del brazo a la plataforma son tan fuertes que dos hombres adultos que no lleven el arnés podrían ser fácilmente catapultados fuera de la plataforma, a menudo con resultados mortales. El uso de un arnés podría salvar la vida en todos casos. Aunque las plataformas aéreas son básicamente una forma segura de trabajar en altura, llevar un arnés es una forma de protección

añadida contra este riesgo demostrado y hace que el trabajo en altura sea incluso más seguro.

Llevar un arnés en plataformas aéreas de brazo es requisito OSHA y ANSI, con lo cual no se trata de una decisión facultativa. No obstante, todos los días seguimos viendo operadores de plataformas aéreas de brazo que no llevan arnés. Por lo tanto, si el uso del arnés hace el trabajo más seguro, ¿por qué los operadores siguen trabajando sin arnés? Una de las razones es que algunas personas no han sido adecuadamente formadas para utilizar correctamente las plataformas aéreas. Estas máquinas son engañosamente fáciles de manejar - "pulsas este botón para subir y este otro para bajar". En consecuencia, demasiadas veces se proporciona in situ una sesión de familiarización sobre la máquina y se considera como formación. Pero como bien sabemos, un conocimiento superficial puede ser algo muy peligroso. Un equipo de trabajo tan especial en las manos de una persona sin los adecuados conocimientos, puede ser peligroso tanto para el operador como para las personas alrededor.

Un operador que no ha recibido formación no tiene los conocimientos necesarios para realizar una inspección de la máquina antes del uso, no sabe realizar una inspección in situ para verificar las condiciones del terreno, detectar baches, agujeros, desniveles, escalones en el área donde va a efectuar el trabajo. No sabrá cómo usar los estabilizadores, o como posicionar de forma eficaz las placas de apoyo para una repartición adecuada de la carga. Un operador inexperto puede no saber que podría haber ángulos muertos durante la operación que deben ser revisados. Tampoco sabrá que debe usar un arnés de cuerpo completo con una eslinga correctamente

AWPT
Personal Fall Protection in Aerial Work Platforms
 • Boom-Supported Work Platforms (Boom Lifts) ANSI A92.5 and Vehicle-Mounted and Towable Work Platforms ANSI A92.2

IPAF
Click It!
 The ANSI standard for Boom-Supported Elevating Work Platforms (A92.5) and the Canadian Standard for Boom-Supported Elevating Work Platforms (CSA B354) require that fall protection be provided in the platform near fall protection devices at all times. The OSHA regulation for aerial lifts (29 CFR 1926.1013) requires the use of a full body harness when working from an aerial work platform. The full body harness should be attached, via a lanyard, to a lanyard anchorage point.

There are no current requirements by ANSI, CSA or OSHA requiring manufacturers covered under the ANSI standards A92.5 and A92.2 and the CSA standard B354.2.

This guidance note was issued by Aerial Work Platform Training Inc. (AWPT), a subsidiary of the International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) in June 2007. It was produced in association with the Scaffold Industry Association which fully endorses its recommendations.

AWPT is the North American subsidiary of IPAF, the organization that promotes the safe and effective use of powered access equipment worldwide. AWPT training complies with OSHA requirements and is based on IPAF training which is certified in conformity to the international standard ISO 18001. AWPT offers the PAF Card Powered Access (formerly IPAF) to people who successfully complete a training course on powered access equipment at an approved training centre (more than 50000 PAF Cards are awarded each year through over 200 approved training centres worldwide). The PAF Card is required by the SA as proof of training in the use of aerial work platforms, and similar work platforms.

www.awpt.org
 For information about AWPT's full range of training programs for all kinds of AWPs visit www.awpt.org

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IPAF
 The world authority in powered access

Download a copy of H1, the industry standard guidance on when to wear a harness, from www.awpt.org

ajustada enganchada a punto de anclaje adecuado cuando se trabaja en plataformas aéreas de brazo. Estas son sólo algunas de un largo listado de cosas que podrían evitar graves accidentes o salvar vidas en caso que se produzca el accidente.

Otra razón por la que algunas personas no utilizan el arnés cuando deberían, es que trabajar sin él lo consideran un acto de valentía. En las obras escuchamos muy a menudo afirmaciones como estas: "No necesito un arnés para un trabajo de nada; he utilizado estas máquinas muchas veces y nunca he necesitado un arnés", o también "ni voy a subirme a la barandillas ni voy a asomarme, así que no necesito un arnés". El trabajar sin "ataduras" parece que les hace más valientes y bravos. Lo que no se da cuenta es que se están exponiendo innecesariamente a un riesgo increíble: un movimiento inesperado del brazo de la plataforma podría acabar con sus vidas. Y todo esto se podría haber evitado si se hubieran enganchado debidamente.

Es evidente que el operador de plataformas aéreas de brazo tiene que llevar un arnés con una eslinga lo más ajustada posible para evitar que se encuentre en una posición con riesgo de caída. También es importante comprobar, antes de cada uso, que la eslinga y el arnés no presenten daños. Daños en la eslinga, en especial la abrasión, pueden comprometer seriamente su rendimiento. Idealmente, cada operador debería disponer de su propio arnés del cual él es el responsable. Las eslingas deben siempre estar enganchadas en el punto de anclaje definido por el fabricante de la plataforma y no a un punto cualquiera que se encuentre fuera de la cesta. En algunas raras circunstancias, el uso de arneses en plataformas aéreas de brazo puede no ser la opción más segura. Por ejemplo, en trabajos a bajo nivel por encima del agua donde existe un riesgo de ahogamiento si el dispositivo aéreo volcara en el agua. El consejo general de llevar el arnés en plataformas aéreas de brazo en este caso no se aplicaría. Lo más importante, antes de iniciar cualquier trabajo, es llevar a cabo evaluación de riesgos específica para la tarea a realizar. La demostración práctica que "Sólo unos tontos maniqués no utilizan el arnés en plataformas aéreas de brazo" tendrá lugar en la feria Conexpo en la Zona de Seguridad IPAF (Stand SZ1000). IPAF demostrará el impacto sobre un maniquí que no



In preparation for Conexpo, AWPT has printed enough Click It! stickers for each and every boom in the nation. Help us get a Click It! sticker on every boom platform and help save lives.

leva un arnés en una plataforma aérea de brazo. Podrás ver con sus propios ojos y acabar diciéndote a ti mismo: "no seas tonto, iengánchate!"