



# Indiana

## Department of Labor

*Advancing the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace*

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The Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA) recently concluded a fatality investigation involving the use of a scissor lift. The student employee was videotaping an athletic practice from a scissor lift extended into the air more than 39 feet. Wind gusts in excess of 50 miles per hour caused the lift to tip over.

Scissor and other lifts are used by numerous athletic and band programs nationwide, to videotape practices as well as broadcast events. We are urging all high schools, colleges and universities to review their use of lifts in these settings. Whether adult volunteers, employees, or students, the employer must ensure the lift operator is trained as to the hazards and the use of this equipment.

Employers must recognize and eliminate workplace safety and health hazards. The major causes of injuries and fatalities involving lifts include falls, electrocution, collapse and tipping over. Employers must remain vigilant in their safety and health efforts, and implement and follow safe practices that will prevent deaths, injuries and illnesses.

Employers in need of assistance in developing and implementing workplace safety and health management systems are urged to contact their risk management or loss prevention support personnel for assistance. Employers may also contact INSafe, the Indiana Department of Labor's free on-site OSHA consultation program. INSafe works with Hoosier employers to assist them in the identification and correction of occupational safety and health hazards. INSafe's services are confidential, provided the employer agrees to correct all serious hazards identified by the consultant.

To learn more about INSafe, please visit [www.in.gov/dol/insafe](http://www.in.gov/dol/insafe), e-mail [insafe@dol.in.gov](mailto:insafe@dol.in.gov) or phone (317) 232-2688.

Additional resources for employers and employees concerning safe operation of scissor lifts may be found on the reverse side of this letter.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey S. Carter  
Deputy Commissioner for IOSHA  
Indiana Department of Labor



## Online Resources and References

Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA)

[www.in.gov/dol/iosha.htm](http://www.in.gov/dol/iosha.htm)

INSafe (Indiana Department of Labor's OSHA Consultation Program)

[www.in.gov/dol/insafe](http://www.in.gov/dol/insafe)

Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA)

[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

## Safe Work Practices for Lifts

- 1) Ensure workers who operate lifts (of any type) are properly trained in the safe use of the equipment. Prior to using the lift, operators must demonstrate proficiency in the actual operation of all functions of the equipment. Lifts should only be used under the direction of a qualified person.
- 2) Maintain and operate lifts and other elevated work platforms in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- 3) Do not operate lifts in adverse weather conditions such as high wind speeds, rain, snow, sleet, etc.
- 4) Evaluate working conditions where electrical or structural hazards exist.
- 5) Use the equipment's outriggers and stabilizers if provided.
- 6) Do not exceed the load limit of the equipment. Allow for a combined weight of worker, tools and materials.
- 7) Inspect all lifts on a schedule according to OSHA standards and manufacturers' recommendations.