

# Work **Safe!** Bulletin

## VEHICLE MOUNTED AERIAL DEVICES

Bulletin No.: 163  
February 1995

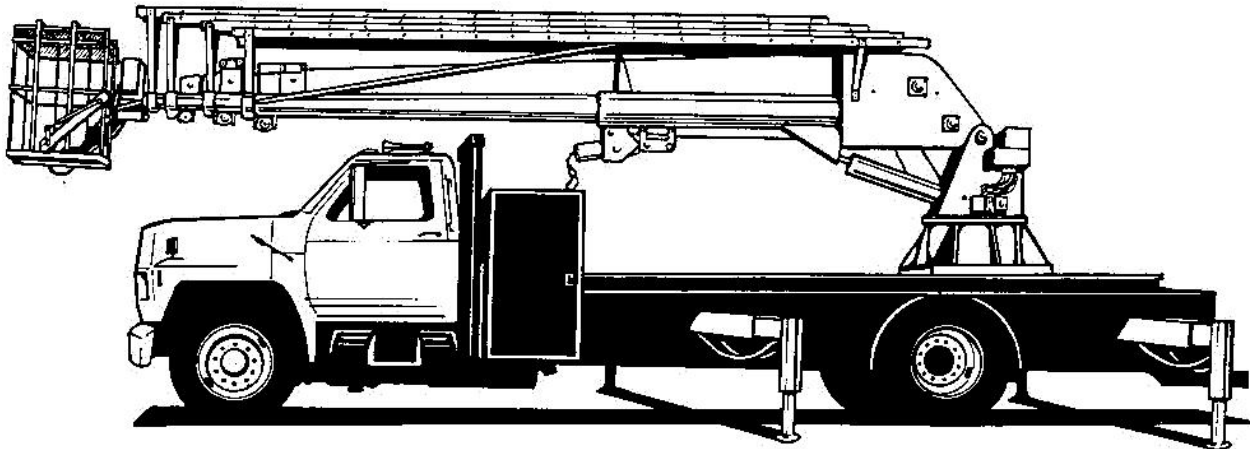
Vehicle mounted aerial devices, generally known as ladder and bucket or boom trucks, are used throughout Manitoba for hoisting materials and allowing workers to gain access to heights. They are used for such activities as sign erection and repair, window washing, and other general maintenance work.

The proper maintenance and operation of aerial devices is essential to providing a safe worksite. It is the joint responsibility of employers and workers to use aerial devices according to manufacturer's operating directives and in a safe manner.

Before workers operate or work on these aerial vehicles, the employer must ensure that they are properly trained on the safe care and use of the equipment.

Operators and workers should understand the following:

- ❑ the basic fundamentals of the equipment design and operation
- ❑ the mechanical limitations of the equipment
- ❑ safe practices for working near overhead power lines
- ❑ the proper use of personal protective equipment and fall protection systems
- ❑ safe use of ladder or bucket attachments
- ❑ daily pre-operational inspection and equipment check.



A system of worker fall protection is essential to the safe operation of aerial devices. Workers using aerial ladders and boom work platforms must wear a full body harness and be secured to a suitable anchoring system once they have reached their work position or are being elevated in the bucket.

The employer must ensure that an inspection of the equipment is done prior to the vehicle being put in service each day. Any defects observed or required repairs must be reported to the employer so the vehicle can be put into proper operating condition, prior to use. A sample **Daily Inspection Checklist** has been included on this bulletin.

**DAILY INSPECTION CHECKLIST (SAMPLE)**

- ✓ obvious physical damage
- ✓ leaks, hydraulic, brake fluid
- ✓ load rate/radius chart
- ✓ tubes; bent or scored
- ✓ rollers or wear plates
- ✓ electrics; motor, switches
- ✓ cables; (wear, kinks, drum condition)
- ✓ hooks, other lifting apparatus
- ✓ gears; greased, damaged
- ✓ platform condition; spills, debris
- ✓ ladders; straight, rails, steps
- ✓ bucket; condition, mounting
- ✓ outriggers; damage, operational
- ✓ first aid kit
- ✓ marker cones, other marking equipment
- ✓ step and extension ladders
- ✓ electrical cords; plugs, breaks
- ✓ power tools, cord, plugs
- ✓ hand tools, condition
- ✓ harnesses and lanyards
- ✓ condition of carrier vehicle
- ✓ utilities notified if necessary
- ✓ operator has been trained