



# Aerial Work Platform (AWP)

An Aerial Work Platform (AWP) is a powered or manually operated lift designed to elevate workers, tools, and materials to specific heights for tasks such as maintenance, construction, inspection, or installation.

## **B** FALLING HAZARDS ARE AN ELEVATED RISK TO FLEET

**L** Naval Safety Command has identified 19 mishaps involving Aerial Work Platforms (AWPs) across the waterfront in the  
**U** past 10 years, with five witnessed instances of unsafe operations in CY23 during local area assessments. These incidents  
**F** highlight the need for stricter adherence to safety protocols, operator training, and risk mitigation to prevent future mishaps.

NAVSAFECOM has identified an overall lack of adherence to fundamental policy, proper equipment operation, and personnel training when using Aerial Work Platforms (AWPs). The most prominent concerns are:

- Lack of quality assurance (QA) qualifications
- Discrepancies in certification standards
- Gaps in or missing technical procedures
- Invalid source maintenance requirements
- Lack of source rating/manning
- Lack of formal training



## **KEEP THE RISK RATE FALLING:**

Control measures can eliminate, prevent or lessen the severity of a fall hazard.

1. The operator must be trained and licensed to operate the equipment, trained in fall protection as an end-user, ensure all occupants use a restraint/working lanyard per the DON Fall Protection Guide, ensure platforms are appropriately loaded, and account for additional weight from air hoses or welding leads to maintain platform stability.
2. The safety observer must be assigned for all high-risk AWP operations, conduct a pre-check for low-risk operations like scissor lifts, warn the operator of hazards, ensure pedestrian safety, initiate the rescue plan if needed, and meet all operator requirements.
3. Passengers must follow the operator's instructions and be trained as end-users of fall protection.
4. Supervisors are responsible for ensuring operators, passengers, and safety observers comply with all safety requirements during AWP operations.



## **NAVSAFECOM RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:**

1. Ensure proper training and compliance
2. Conduct thorough pre-use inspections
3. Maintain a safe operating environment
4. Use fall protection correctly
5. Follow load and stability guidelines



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