

Tis the Season...

Be SAFE!



The holiday season has arrived and it's now time to begin decorating our cities and towns. Unfortunately, many municipalities often use whatever equipment they have on hand to perform this task. This usually means personnel will be in the front bucket of a back-hoe or on the platform of a forklift while installing lights and decorations. This, of course, is an extremely unsafe practice that can lead to serious injury or death.

Forklifts and front-end loaders are not designed to lift personnel or to be used as a work platform. OSHA states that forklifts, front-end loaders and "similar pieces of equipment" shall not be used to support scaffold platforms unless specifically designed by the manufacturer for such use. Keep in mind that while OSHA guidelines may not be *required*, OSHA is still a reliable source of information for developing your public entity's best practices.

The Alabama League of Municipalities' Loss Control Department recommends that municipalities discontinue using front-end loaders and similar equipment when installing holiday decorations, lights and other such items. We recommend using a lift that is designed for passenger use and has been tested for such use. Often times such equipment can be found locally for rent at a reasonable cost.

Choosing to use the proper equipment provides a safer work area for your employees and can possibly save someone's life.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Will Strength
Loss Control Representative
AMIC/MWCF