

5 Moveable Barriers and Lifts

Moveable barriers and lifts are engineering controls that provide adjustable and transportable fall protection. They create a barrier between a person, equipment, materials, tools, and the edge of a high surface.

1

Ladders

Ladders consist of a series of bars or steps between two upright lengths of the structure. Step ladders, platform ladders, and extension ladders are used heavily in construction and maintenance work.



2

Coverings on openings

If guardrails can't be used, in addition to using a travel restraint system, you should cover all exposed pits, tanks, shafts, incomplete stairwells, and other openings. Clearly mark the cover material with bright colours and signs to indicate their presence.



3

Air bag systems

These systems contain a number of inflatable mattresses that connect to form a large cushioned surface. Air bags or other soft landing systems are an occasional alternative to safety nets. Air bag systems are often used in stunt work.



4

Aerial lifts

These include boom-supported lifts like bucket trucks and cherry pickers, and scissor lifts. Aerial lifts can be dangerous, and have been part of serious incidents, including fatalities. They have risks of tip-overs, bucket and platform ejections, and electric shock incidents from contacting electrical wires or boxes. It's important to wear personal fall protection equipment when working on any sort of aerial lift.



5

Suspended platforms

These are also known as swing stages or suspended scaffolds. They're complex systems that are often used at extreme heights.



Always be sure to use all of the designated fall protection controls on your worksite.