Issue:

Aerial Devices and Digger Derricks are used in many different weather conditions. The users must operate only when it is safe to perform the work without endangering the operator or other personnel. Operation in conditions of too much or erratic wind can affect safe operation and must be avoided.

Action:

The users and operator must determine if they can accomplish the work safely in the wind conditions at the job site and not just assume they can work in winds up to 30 mph, the safe speed may be much less. The wind speed that permits safe operation of aerials and digger derricks can change for each situation; work involved and job site location. The people at the job site are the only ones who can determine if it is safe to operate. The wind condition, the terrain, the work to be accomplished, and the height of the work, must be considered to determine if a unit can be operated safely. Gusty or erratic wind, changes in wind speed and direction at various heights, and other environmental conditions such as hills and buildings may cause the booms and the lines or structures being worked to move relative to each other which create an unsafe condition and possibility for severe injury and damage to the equipment and the structures.

Work must not proceed if conditions do not allow safe operation.

The Operator Manuals contain the following information:

**WIND SPEED**

Do not operate the Aerial device or Digger Derrick at any wind speed that would create a potential hazard or does not allow safe operation for the work to be performed.

Allow for platform, boom and work-area movement, electrical line sway or sag during windy conditions.

Always account for windy conditions during the worksite inspection or survey.

**NOTE: OSHA 1910.269 (x) (5) allows the use of Aerial devices and Digger Derricks up to a wind speed of 30 MPH (48 km/h). The OSHA general duty clause also requires the user to determine if conditions are safe before proceeding with work.**

It is both the user’s and operator’s responsibility to conduct a thorough worksite inspection and determine if the work can be performed and the equipment operated safely in the conditions at the site. It is the responsibility of both the user and operator to also continuously monitor the worksite conditions and if conditions adversely change, to halt all operations until conditions allow for safe operation.