

AUTOMOTIVE LIFT SAFETY

THE PROBLEM:

Equipment not maintained to safe specifications.

Employees are taking “short cuts” in the safe operation of lifts.

Most employees have never been trained regarding the safe operation of hoists.

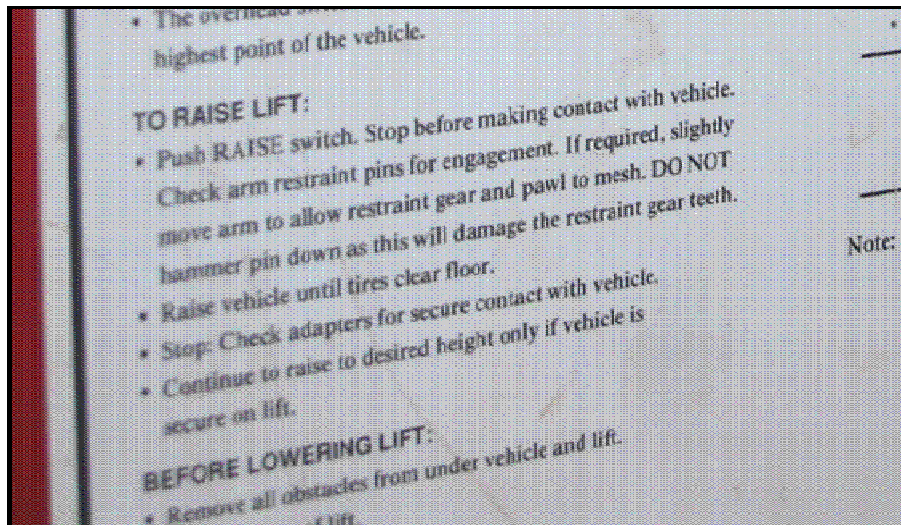
Damage to hoists, customer vehicles and employee/company equipment occurs frequently.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

One of the biggest challenges facing the dealership and its personnel is the lack of training regarding the safety features on hoists **and** the lack of time and interest in reading any of the manuals provided with new hoists. In the past several months, we have held lift safety training sessions at a number of dealerships and have encountered the same evidence of lack of training or lack of enforcement of safety rules.

Many of the dealerships are installing new above ground hoists. These new hoists have safety features which, although they are printed on a tag on the side of a hoist or put into a manual with the hoist, are never transmitted to the Technicians.

Two examples of features not transmitted are in the checking and proper working of the “automatic” swing arm locking devices. Most techs believe that the locks are “automatic” even though the following statement is on the side of most hoists.



The second concern is lowering the lift onto the locks and making sure they are engaged after lifting the vehicle to the desired working height. The majority of techs will raise a vehicle and stop where ever they feel they need to for a proper working height.

If something were to happen to the workings of the lift, depending on where the locks, it could simply catch, jerk the vehicle when it suddenly stops causing it to move and possibly fall, or by-pass the stop and come all the way down.

Enforcement:

Some techs continued to lock down controls and by-pass safety devices that may take a few seconds to properly use. Observations in the field by the Safety Consultants prove employees **visibly** by pass the safeties and no action is taken by management. It is critical to ensure all safety procedures are followed, especially when the violations are readily visible and common.

THE RESULTS:

A reduction of injuries to employees, damaged vehicles, damaged equipment and potential MIOSHA citations and fines.

Coming Soon!

Train the Trainer Seminar regarding Automotive Lift Safety. A new video on CD which can be played in either a computer or DVD player will be available reviewing the safety features, required inspections and procedures for safe Automotive Lift Operation. The seminars will be in the fall. Please watch for the announcements and locations. OSHA/MIOSHA requires all employees using an Automotive Lift be trained. This program will assist you in complying and reducing injuries.