

Occupational Health and Safety ALERT

FLOOR LIFTS for STUDENTS

(Post on OHS Bulletin Boards AND in location of lift for at least 30 days)



FLOOR LIFT FACTS

Floor lifts are a common mechanical tool used by some SSRSB employees to assist students who are confined to wheelchairs and unable to safely transfer by either standing or sliding. Floor lifts come in a variety of makes and models, and use different types of slings or strap systems to secure the student in the lift and are usually battery powered. A floor lift consists of a sling, wheeled base, a vertical mast, a boom and a hydraulic ram.

TIPPING HAZARD ALERT FOR LIFT USERS

Floor lifts usually have two braked castors. **DO NOT LIFT A STUDENT WITH THE CASTOR BRAKES ON. DOING SO MAY CAUSE THE LIFT TO TIP AND ENDANGER THE STUDENT OR LIFT USER.** When left free and un-braked, the lift can stabilize and adjust to find the correct centre of gravity. The castor brakes can be applied for parking the unused lift. Ensure that any other previously written operation instructions that state otherwise are amended to reflect this important hazard alert.

OTHER SAFETY INFORMATION

- Only trained employees should be operating a floor lift. Training includes participating in SSRSB Student Lifting training session, reading and understanding user manual, and receiving instruction on individual student lifting procedures by Rehab Services staff.
- Check the safe working load of the lift is suitable for the student's weight.
- Always plan your lifting operation before starting. Ensure that space is clear and battery is charged.
- Only use a sling recommended by the manufacturer for that lift model, is suitable for the student and is the correct size and capacity. Never use a frayed or damaged sling.
- Never disconnect or bypass a control or safety feature.
- Do not attempt to maneuver the floor lift by pushing on the mast, boom or patient. Always use the handle provided.

You are the biggest part of injury prevention. Make safe operation of floor lifts an important part of your job. Attitude is everything - it's that extra something that means you care about safety.

**For questions or more information on Occupational Health and Safety:
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