



210 Inverness Center Parkway  
Birmingham, Alabama  
35242

21<sup>st</sup> of August  
Our 71<sup>st</sup> Year  
2000

We want to ask our customers,

...to assist us in relaying some very important information to operators of aerial devices and digger derricks. This information is contained in the attached electrical continuity hazard safety bulletin.

This bulletin should be reviewed with equipment operators and copies placed in each unit's operator's manual.

Anything you can do to communicate this information to your operators will be deeply appreciated. Operators must understand that at the boom tips of aerial devices and digger derricks there is metal that will conduct electricity from one point to another at the boom tip. They must also understand that their primary insulation must come from hotsticks, rubber gloves and sleeves, cover-ups, or safe clearances. While fiberglass boom structures provide some degree of protection against phase-to-ground contact through the truck, such structures do nothing to prevent phase-to-phase contact or phase-to-ground contact at the boom tip. Fiberglass platforms and fiberglass covers at the boom tip cannot be depended upon to provide electrical insulation.

Enclosed also is a self-addressed mailer we ask that you return to us to enable us to update our records.

- Our records indicate you are the present owner of the unit(s) on the enclosed list. We ask that you confirm the accuracy of our records by returning the list, with any corrections.
- In the event you no longer own the listed unit(s), we ask that you provide us the name and address of the owner to whom you transferred the unit(s), regardless of how long ago the unit was transferred.
- If you currently own a unit that is not on the enclosed list, please provide us with the serial number of that unit.
- Finally, please verify that we have the name and phone number of the appropriate contact person at your facility for field notices.

This is also a good time to inspect the unit(s) to see if the safety and instructional placards are in place and legible, as required by ANSI. Many times the placards are overlooked as a maintenance item, yet they are important elements in communicating proper operational practices to users.

In order to make it easier to update and replace the safety and instructional signs, Altec makes available two kits. One kit has the necessary decals and placards for the digger derrick while the other kit is made up for the aerial device. Order Altec part number 750-40097 for a digger derrick kit and part number 750-40098 for an aerial device kit. These kits are available by calling 1-877-GO-ALTEC.

If there is any way Altec can be of assistance to you in improving operator safety, we welcome your suggestions.

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## Electrical Continuity Hazard

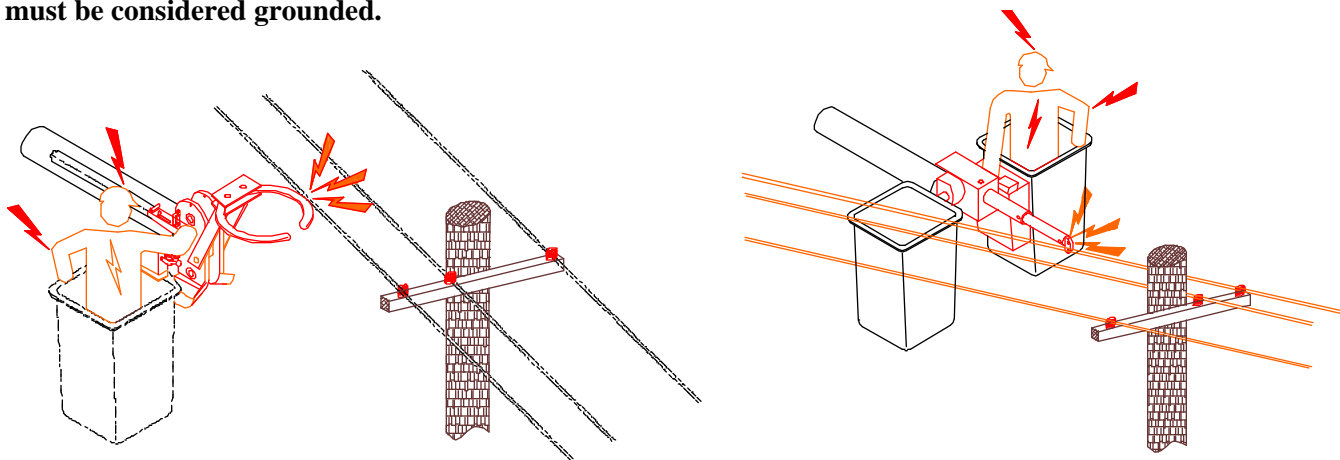
**Always wear insulated protective equipment, use conductor cover-ups, and maintain required clearances when in the vicinity of energized conductors.**

Aerial devices and digger derricks with insulated booms can only isolate the operator from grounding through the boom and vehicle. They cannot provide protection against phase-to-phase or phase-to-ground contacts occurring at the boom-tip, above the insulated boom sections.

Boom-tips of aerial devices and digger derricks, of necessity, must contain metal components. Metal conducts electricity. Moreover, under certain circumstances, and to varying degrees, electricity will track across or through non-metallic components (fiberglass covers and structures, hoses, etc.). Electricity can even arc through air. Thus, **the boom-tip of an aerial device or a digger derrick must be considered conductive!**

**If any part of the boom-tip contacts an energized conductor, the entire boom-tip, including the control handle, must be considered energized.**

**If any part of the boom-tip contacts a grounded object, the entire boom-tip, including the control handle, must be considered grounded.**



Hydraulic fluid is flammable. If electricity flows through the boom-tip, it can cause the hydraulic fluid to burn or to explode. **Contact by any part of the boom-tip with an energized conductor while the boom-tip also is in contact with another energized source or a grounded object can cause the hydraulic fluid at the boom-tip to burn or explode.**

These are among the reasons aerial devices<sup>1</sup> and digger derricks are **never** considered **primary** protection for the operator from electrical contact. **An operator's primary protection comes through use of protective equipment (insulated gloves, insulated sleeves, conductor cover-ups) and maintenance of appropriate clearances.**

**Do not rely on the boom-tip of an aerial device or digger derrick to protect you from an energized conductor or a ground. It cannot do so. Rely, instead, on the only things that can protect you, use of appropriate protective equipment and maintenance of appropriate clearances.**

<sup>1</sup> Except ANSI Category A units