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# HOW ALPHA PLATFORMS SQUEEZED ITS 300-FT BOOM LIFT THROUGH A NARROW MOUNTAIN ROAD TO INSPECT A 200-FT WATER TOWER

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Palmyra, PA's 200-ft water tower is a part of the major water delivery system and sits atop a steep, narrow dirt road in a remote wooded area. The tower maintenance crew, subcontracted by the infrastructure owners, needed to inspect the tower's wooden roof, determine the state of wear, remove unsafe material, and inspect the internal wall.

## THE CHALLENGE

In order to locate and remove fallen and rotting planks, the inspectors needed a full aerial view of the roof. The available fixed climbing ladders restricted the crew to just the wrap-around catwalk under the roof with no access or visibility over the roof to achieve their objectives.

The available self-propelled lifts could not provide inspectors with the access up and over the roof at this height. Transporting a crane with a birdcage to this remote location would have cost tens of thousands of dollars. Also, it would have been dangerous as the dirt road leading to the tower was precariously narrow, barely wide enough to squeeze a firetruck through vegetation.

Hanging in a bird cage over the roof would not have allowed easy and steady access to remove the unsafe roof planks. It's likely, given the tower's enormous size, that only partial access to the roof would have been possible. Communication between the crane operator and workers in a birdcage is never ideal: it's typically confusing because the parties don't see each other.

After extensive research of potential roof access methods, the client called Alpha Platforms for an estimate. Our estimator came on-site to evaluate the approach feasibility and measure the tower using a digital rangefinder to match available boom lifts.



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## THE SOLUTION

**After evaluating site drawings and measurements, the estimator assigned the tallest man lift on the market:** a 300-ft giant aerial platform. Alpha's A-300 has a vertical reach of up to 300 ft and up-and-over reaches of 200 ft and 100 ft, respectively.

Given the tower's remote location, it was risky to drive the 110,000-lb truck on the twisting mountain roads, Alpha Platforms' operated rentals team dispatched the most experienced, IPAF- and manufacturer-certified driver and operator for this project.

The parking area in front of the tower did not allow for u-turns. As a result, the A-300 had to drive backwards, almost 3,000 ft, all the way up to the tower site.



## THE OUTCOME

Our operator smoothly maneuvered the giant 300-ft aerial lift to the tower and quickly lifted the maintenance crew up and over the roof. Having a full-time lift operator allowed easy access to its entire surface from a steady, stable basket, where the workers could solely and safely focus on the job at hand.

Inspectors removed the rotten wood and lowered remote-access cameras inside the tower to complete the inspection report. The project finished in less than a week, on time and within budget, saving the project manager tens of thousands of dollars.



**Our precise German-made lifts and an all-inclusive operated rental service are the height access method of choice for hard-to-access structures or at extreme heights, as they combine unmatched productivity with safety and comfort.**



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