

E Safety – Toolbox Talk

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MOBILE ELEVATED WORK PLATFORMS

Mobile Elevated Work Platform or MEWPS of various different types and sizes are used extensively to gain access. They are very useful items of plant if used correctly but can be very dangerous if not used correctly or in a safe manner.

Hazards

- Operatives falling from height due to unsafe work practises.
- Overturning of the machine due to poor operating technique or unsatisfactory ground conditions.
- Collision with other vehicles (knuckle or boom moving into the path of other traffic)
- Tools and materials etc, falling from height.
- Contact with high level, live electrical cables and other obstructions.
- Exhaust fumes, if using in a confined/enclosed space.
- High wind speeds and other adverse weather conditions.

Consider what particular hazards are present on site now where you are working?

Precautions

- All operators of MEWPS must be trained in their use IPAF.
- Operators should only operate the types of MEWP for which they are trained e.g. Scissor Lift/Cherry Picker.
- Always check that the machine is stable before use.
- Use outriggers or stabilisers, where necessary.
- With the exception of scissor lifts, users **MUST** wear a safety harness and be clipped to the basket at the appropriate point.
- The lanyard on your harness should be a 'short' fixed length.
- Under **NO** circumstances should you elevate your position by standing on the guardrails around the platform.
- Ensure that the ground conditions are suitable for the type of machine in use. If in doubt ask
- Do not load the machine beyond its safe working load.
- If your work involves removing equipment or materials from a structure, don't forget to allow for the extra weight.
- Keep the platforms 'clear and clean' of bolts etc if not required

How can you determine the safe working load of any machine?

- When manoeuvring in a confined area or where pedestrians are at risk **ALWAYS** use a signaller/Banksmen
- Be prepared to stop work and return to the ground level if wind speed or weather conditions deteriorate to an unacceptable level.
- **DON'T** travel with the platform elevated, return to the ground and travel

Refuelling

- Always turn the engine off before refuelling
- LPG-powered machine must be refuelled in open spaces where any spillages can quickly and easily disperse
- It is good practise to carry out all refuelling operation in the open air
- Avoid skin contact when refuelling by where the appropriate type of gloves and clean up any spillages