

Toolbox Talk

47. Mobile Elevated Work Platforms (MEWPs)



What?

- This is a general term used for scissor lift, aerial platform, or an extendable or articulating boom aerial device (either self-propelled or vehicle-mounted) used for the purpose of positioning personnel, their tools, and necessary materials to elevated work locations and is often referred to as a “MEWP”
- They provide a quick and reliable safe place of work to prevent people falling from height but require trained personnel to operate the equipment to avoid mishap

Why?

- Falling from height is the largest single cause of fatal accidents in the workplace. Most falls happen because the equipment used to work at height is unsuitable for the work being carried out
- Mobile Elevated Work Platforms (MEWPs) are increasingly being used as temporary working platforms to provide a safe place of work at height and are considered to be very effective at preventing falls from height

Do



- ✓ Always make sure the MEWP is segregated from other site traffic
- ✓ Look out for overhead or adjacent structures which may trap or crush personnel
- ✓ Comply with permit to work arrangements
- ✓ Check ground is firm and level when setting up the equipment
- ✓ Wear and attach fall arrest equipment before leaving the ground
- ✓ Make sure you have received proper training before operating this equipment
- ✓ Inspect daily for defects
- ✓ Check equipment has been thoroughly examined within the last 6 months

Don't



- ✗ Use for anything other than it's intended purpose
- ✗ Climb out of the platform
- ✗ Over-ride the controls
- ✗ Overload the platform
- ✗ Put yourself in a position where you could be trapped or crushed when the platform moves
- ✗ Allow things to fall from the platform
- ✗ Ignore defects or other operational problems – report them immediately



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