

FACT SHEET

Safe use of Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP)

A number of accidents associated with the use of mobile elevated work platforms have occurred such as workers have fallen off when using a boom lift or have been caught-in between hazards. There have also been instances where MEWPs overturned.

The hazards and risks involved arising from the improper use of MEWP is a serious workplace safety concern and it is essential to reinforce the preventive measures on the safe use of these equipment.

How do you prevent accidents arising from the use of MEWP?

Before the start of any work, always conduct a **Risk Assessment** to identify the potential hazards and the risks involved. Where possible, eliminate the hazards, if not, mitigate the risks and implement control measures for the safe operation of MEWP.

The following are some pointers to ensure safe operation of MEWP.

i) Eliminate unsafe ground condition :

- Assess the ground condition (e.g. slope, softness) of the area where MEWP is to be operated and has to travel before reaching work position.
- Poor ground conditions can lead to the MEWP to be unstable and overturn. Eliminate unsafe ground conditions, such by compacting or use suitable base plates.

ii) Prevent falls from MEWP :

- Select and use the appropriate fall arrest system with a short lanyard that is suitable for the height the worker in the carrier will be working on. The harness should be anchored securely to the guardrail of the MEWP.



Use of a fall arrest system.

• Consideration when Working over water

When working over water, consider the use of a life jacket instead of a safety harness. This is to handle situations where the MEWP topples and falls into the water

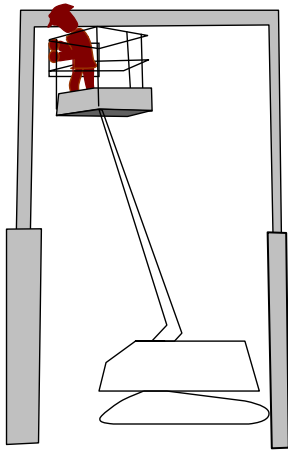
Case study:

http://www.mom.gov.sg/publish/momportal/en/communities/workplace_safety_and_health/O SHD_News_Alerts_Archive.-momParsBase-93396-DownloadFile.tmp/Alert0708046.pdf

iii) Works on public roads

- Working on public roads pose additional risks to the workers due to the presence of moving vehicles and other road users. Measures including proper traffic control must be implemented to safeguard the safety of the workers.
- For more information on the requirements when working on public roads, please refer to Land Transport Authority's guidelines and circulars:
http://www.lta.gov.sg/dbc/index_dbc_other.htm

iv) Eliminate / mitigate struck-by or caught-in between hazards:



Danger of operator getting caught between overhead structures and the MEWP

- Assess the environment, e.g. struck by oncoming vehicles, such as buses. Execute preventive control measures, such as demarcating the area.
- Ensure workers do not position themselves between overhead hazards, such as the rails of the basket.
- Ensure that there is no overhead obstruction during the operation. Protective measures such as an overhead protection could be implemented.

v) Eliminate equipment failure:

- Conduct daily pre-operation inspection and function checks of all controls on the MEWP. Report any faults identified immediately to the supervisor and only operate MEWP after rectification.
- Ensure that the MEWP has a thorough examination and testing by an authorised examiner at least once every six months.
- Establish a maintenance and inspection programme for all MEWP in accordance with the manufacturer's operational and maintenance manuals.

vi) Dealing with emergency

- Establish an emergency response plan to deal with accidents, near misses, dangerous occurrence or malfunctioning of MEWP.
- Ensure all operators are trained to follow the procedures in the emergency response plan.

vii) Training

- Ensure operators are trained and familiar with the safe performance and control of the MEWP.
- Operators must refer to the operator's manual when he/she encounters a problem with the machine.
- Provide adequate training for the operators and workers working in the vicinity of MEWP so that they understand and adhere to all on-site safety requirements related to the safe operation of MEWP.

For more information, please refer to the following links:

1. Risk Assessment Guidelines. Available at:
http://www.mom.gov.sg/publish/momportal/en/communities/workplace_safety_and_health/maintaining_a_safe_workplace/occupation_safety/risk_management.html
2. Land Transport Authority. Other Guidelines, Standards & Circulars.
http://www.lta.gov.sg/dbc/index_dbc_other.htm
3. HSE. Preventing falls from boom-type mobile elevating work platforms. Available online: HSE Information Sheet MISC614 [<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/misc614.pdf>].
4. HSE. The selection and management of mobile elevating work platforms. Available online: HSE Information Sheet No 58 [<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/cis58.pdf>].
5. OSHA. Aerial Lifts Safety Tips.
http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_Hurricane_Facts/aerial_lifts_safety.pdf