



Work Safety Alert **Fallen with a Topped Mobile Elevating Work Platform**

1. **Date of Accident :** August 2023
2. **Place of Accident :** A sports centre
3. **Summary :**

While a worker was using a power-operated vertical mast type mobile elevating work platform (“PEWP”) to carry out temporary leak control works, the PEWP suddenly overturned and the worker fell out of the work platform onto the ground for about 7.6m. The worker sustained serious bodily injuries and passed away on the same day.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Proprietors/ Employers :

To ensure the safe operation of PEWP, contractors/ proprietors/ employers should provide and maintain a safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work and the operation of a PEWP, taking into account the nature of work, the working environment, the ground condition and the limitations of the type of PEWP;
- formulating detailed safe work procedures and safety precautions with due regard to the result of the assessment, and in conformity with the instructions given in the machine manufacturer’s manual;
- ensuring the PEWP is of good mechanical construction, made of strong and sound materials;
- ensuring the PEWP is properly maintained and free from patent defect;



- ensuring that the PEWP is regularly inspected, tested, and properly maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions in order to ensure that it is in safe working condition at all times;
- ensuring that the inspection, test, maintenance and repair of the PEWP are performed by persons who are suitably trained and competent for such work;
- ensuring that pre-operation inspection is carried out to ensure that the PEWP is in a serviceable state;
- ensuring that the PEWP is set up with its outriggers fully extended and leveled within the manufacturer's tolerances before operating the PEWP;
- ensuring that the PEWP is operated by an authorised person who has adequately trained and is competent by reasons of substantial training and practical experience;
- ensuring every person working on the PEWP is wearing a suitable safety harness with its lanyard anchored to a specified anchorage point of the work platform designed by the manufacturer to prevent falling from the platform;
- providing all workers/ employees involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and the necessary safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure that all safety measures are strictly followed.



5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Power-operated Elevating Work Platforms¹](#)
- [Overview of Work-at-Height Safety¹](#)

¹ Click to view document

DISCLAIMER

This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.

Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.