



Work Safety Alert

Pressed to Death by an Elevating Work Platform

1. **Date of Accident :** October 2021
2. **Place of Accident :** A commercial complex in a public estate

3. **Summary**

While two workers were moving an elevating work platform (“EWP”) down a ramp in a commercial complex, the EWP lost control, rolled downwards along the ramp and bumped to a transformer room at the end of the ramp. The EWP rebounded, overturned and pressed one of the workers to death on the floor.

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

To ensure the safety of workers/employees engaged in transportation and operation of EWP, 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, taking into account the nature of work, the working environment, the possible route of transportation, the ground condition, the weight and dimensions of the EWP, the width and gradient of the ramp, with particular attention to any possible emergency situations in transporting EWP on the ramp;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the work to eliminate all potential hazards associated with the work, with due regards to the results of risk assessments, which should comply with the requirements of relevant safety legislation and guidelines;



- ensuring that transportation and operation of EWP are performed by trained and competent workmen, and carried out in accordance with the safe work methods and procedures under the direct supervision of a competent person who is competent by virtue of his knowledge, training and practical experience;
- ensuring that the EWP should not be transported or operated on slopes, ramps or cambers with gradient exceeding the recommended limit in the manufacturer's manual;
- ensuring that workers/employees engaged in the transportation of EWP should be provided with suitable mechanical aids and protective equipment to reduce the risks of manual handling operations;
- ensuring the control switch or device of the EWP is readily identifiable and accessible for stopping the EWP quickly in an emergency;
- ensuring that the EWP is fitted with an effective lock-on brake or other means that is capable to hold it on the maximum slope for which it is designed while being loaded with its safe working load;
- ensuring that the EWP 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;
- formulating emergency procedures as appropriate;
- providing all workers/employees involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures including the procedures to deal with emergency situations and the necessary safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.



5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Power-operated Elevating Work Platforms](#)¹
- [A Guide to Part VII of the Occupational Safety and Health Regulation \(Manual Handling Operations\)](#)¹

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.

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