



## Work Safety Alert

### Trapped by the Deformed Elevating Work Platform

1. **Date of Accident :** February 2019
2. **Place of Accident :** A village road
3. **Summary :**

While a lorry that was mounted with an elevating work platform (“EWP”) was travelling along a village road for street lamp cleaning work, the raised work platform was suspected to have struck onto the nearby overhead cables and was deformed. A worker staying on the work platform was trapped by the deformed work platform. He sustained serious head injury and passed away on the same day.

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

To prevent any workers/ employees from being endangered by any obstacles including overhead cables while working on a lorry-mounted EWP, contractors/ 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 to be carried out, the work environment, the presence of any obstacles including overhead cables in the vicinity and the operation of the EWP;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regards to the results of risk assessments, which should comply with the requirements of safety legislation and relevant safety guidelines;



- ensuring that the EWP is not raised unless the lorry remains stationary with all out-riggers, if provided, fully extended and properly rested on the ground;
- ensuring that the platform of the EWP is lowered to the cradle position before the lorry moves;
- ensuring that the lorry would not travel with workers staying on the platform of the EWP;
- while the EWP is travelling, ensuring that a safe distance is kept from nearby obstacles including overhead cables;
- never moving the EWP close to overhead electric lines unless the electricity distributor has permitted a closer approach in writing. Reference should also be made to the Electricity Supply Lines (Protection) Regulation and the Code of Practice on Working near Electricity Supply Lines issued by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department;
- where the EWP is required to work close to overhead electricity lines, taking precautions to prevent any worker/ employee from being endangered by the overhead electricity lines including rendering them dead or placing suitable barriers;
- ensuring that adequate lighting is provided as necessary at the work area where the EWP operates;
- ensuring that the EWP is only operated by a trained and competent workman;
- 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 Work](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Power-operated Elevating Work Platforms](#)<sup>1</sup>

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### 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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<sup>1</sup> Click to view document