



## Work Safety Alert

### Struck by an Elevating Working Platform

1. **Date of Accident :** April 2021
2. **Place of Accident :** A carpark under renovation
3. **Summary :**

A worker while handling a malfunctioning elevated working platform (“EWP”) on a ramp in a carpark was struck and pushed by the EWP which suddenly moved downwards along the ramp. He was eventually trapped between the EWP and a concrete column in the carpark. He sustained serious injury on his legs and passed away two days later in the hospital.

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

To ensure the safe operations of elevated working platforms (EWPs) and to prevent any workers/ employers from being endangered while engaging in emergency recovery of the machinery, contractors/ proprietors 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 travelling, the ground condition, width and gradients of the ramp travelled, with particular attention to any unintended movement of the EWP parked on a ramp;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regards to the results of risk assessments, manufacturer’s manuals and



logbooks, and following the requirements of safety legislation and relevant safety guidelines;

- ensuring that the EWP should be parked in a designated area where is out of traffic with level ground and located at supervised areas to prevent easy access by unauthorized persons;
- ensuring that the parking brake of the EWP should be applied and the wheels blocked, if necessary;
- ensuring that the EWP should only be operated by persons who have received suitable training and are competent to operate the machine;
- ensuring that the EWP should not be operated on grades, slopes, ramps or cambers with gradient exceeding the recommended limit in the manufacturer's manual;
- ensuring the control switch or device of the EWP is readily identifiable and accessible for stopping the EWP quickly in an emergency;
- ensuring that adequate and safe procedures are in place to deal with emergency situations;
- ensuring that the inspection, test, maintenance and repair of the EWP by persons who are suitably trained and competent for such work;
- ensuring that the EWP should be 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 emergency recovery of EWP on the spot is performed by trained and competent workmen and under the direct supervision of an engineer/ a person who is competent by virtue of his knowledge and practical experience and safe work methods and procedures for the



work are in place;

- providing all workers/ employees concerned with the necessary information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and 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](#)<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