



**Work Safety Alert**  
**Trapped between an Elevating Work Platform**  
**and a Sprinkler Pipe**

1. **Date of Accident** : June 2021
2. **Place of Accident** : A construction site
3. **Summary :**

While a worker was operating an elevating work platform (“EWP”) for plastering work of the wall at the basement, his neck was trapped between the top guardrail of the EWP and a sprinkler pipe underneath the ceiling. He was sent to hospital and passed away two days later.

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

To prevent any workers/ employees from being endangered by any obstacles such as overhead fixtures while working on an EWP, 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 to be carried out, the work environment, the presence of any installations/ fixtures in the vicinity and the operation of the EWP;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of risk assessments, which should comply with the requirements of safety legislation and relevant safety guidelines;
- ensuring 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;



- ensuring that the platform of the EWP is lowered to the cradle position before it moves;
- ensuring that the EWP would not travel with any worker staying on the platform of the EWP;
- while the EWP is travelling, ensuring that a safe distance is kept from nearby obstacles such as fixed pipes underneath the ceiling;
- ensuring that every control of a power-operated EWP should be of the "deadman" type that it could automatically return to neutral or off position when released, and the controls should be positioned or protected against accidental operation or damage;
- ensuring that the function of each control device should be clearly indicated and marked on or beside the device;
- ensuring that a clearly marked overriding lowering control should be fitted to enable a worker/ an employee at ground level to lower the platform of the EWP in an emergency;
- where practicable, fitting an appropriate secondary guarding device in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations for further reducing the risk of entrapment;
- 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 adequate procedures to deal with emergency situations;
- 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 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