

CFMEU SAFETY ALERT

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Safe use of Mobile Elevated Work Platforms (MEWP'S)



There have been several incidents in Australia and internationally where workers have been crushed against fixed structures while manoeuvring raised boom and scissor type elevating work platforms (MEWPs). Many of these incidents have resulted in fatalities.

Mobile Elevated Work Platform is the name given to a variety of mobile platforms that provide a safe option when working at heights.

Scissor lifts, cherry pickers, boom lifts and travel towers are all types of MEWPs.

Some are designed to be operated only on level surfaces whilst others can be operated on rough terrain.

Operators of boom-type MEWPs with a reach above 11 metres must hold a 'licence to perform high risk work' endorsed with the competency - WP.

Safety tips for MEWPs

Contact Western Power 13 10 87 if working near overhead power lines!

- All MEWP's must arrive on site with an operator's manual and a log book. Do not operate a MEWP without completing a documented pre-start inspection.
- Appropriate emergency procedures are required: ~ Emergency descent switches should be identified and tested prior to operation by the operator and the designated spotter.
- A risk assessment (SWMS) which includes an emergency response plan must be completed.
- A harness must be worn at all times in boom-type MEWPs.
- Do not operate a MEWP if you have not been trained (have a High Risk License) in the safe use of the machine.
- Select the most appropriate MEWP for the task.
- Never enter or leave the platform when it is elevated.
- Always remain within the confines of the work platform and do not stand on the mid or handrails of the platform.
- MEWPs must not be used as a crane or hoist.
- Materials or gear must not be slung or attached to a MEWP, unless the attachment has been specifically designed, rated, tested, marked and approved by the manufacturer of the EWP.
- Do not operate a MEWP on uncompacted ground.
- MEWPs should not be moved while in an elevated position.
- Establish exclusion zones and signage to keep unauthorised personnel from entering a potential crush or drop zone.
- A dedicated spotter who has practiced the ground control operations during the daily pre start inspection must be in attendance while an MEWP is in operation.
- Immediately report any incidents or damage.

REPORT UNSAFE WORK PRACTICES - CALL (08) 9228 6900 OR EMAIL SAFETY@CFMEUWA.COM

Stand up. Speak out. Come home.