

Worker dies while trying to enter boom lift

On 15 November 2021, a worker on the fourth floor of a building under construction slipped and fell 27 metres to the ground when he tried to ride a boom lift to the ground floor. The worker fell as he was attempting to climb over the barricade to get onto the lift platform. The worker was not wearing a safety harness.

The worker was sent to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.



The worker climbed over the barricade to get into the boom lift

Overview of accident scene.

Recommendations

In most cases, Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs) are not meant to be passenger lifts for workers to enter and exit while raised. To prevent similar accidents, consider the following measures:

- **Safe use of MEWP:** Use the MEWP (e.g. boom lift) only to raise workers to the desired level for work to be done, while staying on the MEWP platform at all times. Workers should not get out of the MEWP while it is raised and never climb over the guard rails.
- **Proper access:** Provide workers with a safe way to get to the level they need to work (e.g. staircase, tower scaffold). You should NOT allow workers to use an MEWP to transfer workers between levels unless:
 - it is allowed by the MEWP manufacturer;
 - there is no other safe way to allow workers to get to the level;
 - a risk assessment has been done to assess and control all additional risks (e.g. falls due to sudden movement by the MEWP); and
 - all workers are able to use 100% tie-off during the transfer.

- **Good lighting:** Ensure good worksite lighting.
- **Work supervision:** Provide on-site supervision for workers working at height.
- **Personal protection:** Where there is a risk of falling from height, each worker should have fall arrest equipment, e.g. full body harness with twin-tailed lanyard connected to secured anchor points.

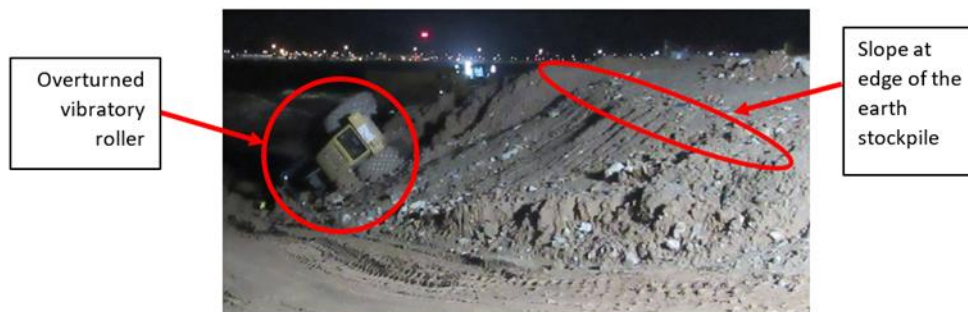
For more information, refer to WSH Council's [Code of Practice for Working Safely at Heights](#).

* Information on the accident is based on preliminary investigations by the Ministry of Manpower as at 18 November 2021. This may be subject to change as investigations are still on-going. Please also note that the recommendations provided here are not exhaustive and they are meant to enhance workplace safety and health so that a recurrence may be prevented. The information and recommendations provided are not to be construed as implying liability on any party nor should it be taken to encapsulate all the responsibilities and obligations under the law.

Overtaken vibratory roller traps operator

On 18 November 2021, a worker was trapped after the vibratory roller he drove overturned. He was driving the roller to compact earth at the top of a stockpile when it got too near to the edge of the stockpile. A banksman and the nearest spotlights were about 30 metres away from the stockpile.

The worker was sent to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.



Overview of accident scene.

Recommendations

Operating heavy machinery or vehicles near an open edge or slope is risky. To prevent vehicle toppling, consider the following measures:

- **Site survey and planning:** Identify safe routes for vehicle movement before starting work.
- **Boundary for safe operation:** Erect barriers to mark out the safe work area and install signs to warn operators of site hazards (e.g. open edge or slope).
- **Worker training:** Allow only trained, competent and authorised workers to operate a roller.

- **Seatbelts:** Instruct operators to put on their seatbelts once seated, so that the operator remain inside the operator cabin in the event of a vehicle overturning.
- **Site lighting:** Ensure good worksite lighting.
- **Ground assistance:** Deploy a ground guide (banksman) to assist the operator in high hazard work areas. This is especially important when reversing vehicles near open edges or slopes. Allow ground guides and operators to communicate easily (e.g. use walkie-talkies).
- **Choice of equipment:** Avoid operating ride-on rollers next to an open edge or slope. Walk-behind rollers are a safer option.
- **Use of technology:** Where feasible, explore the use of remote-controlled rollers.

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