



WSHAlert

10 February 2021, Ref: 2021091

Accident Notification: Worker found unconscious on boom lift

On 1 February 2021, a plasterer was found unconscious and slouched against the control panel of his boom lift. He was subsequently rescued and conveyed to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.

The Ministry of Manpower has commenced investigations into the accident.

Occupiers, principals and employers undertaking similar work activities are advised to put in place suitable risk controls to protect workers assigned to work on a Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP) such as a boom lift or scissor lift. Ensure that on-site risk assessment has been carried out and workers are familiar with the safe work procedures prior to work commencement. Allow only competent and authorised workers to operate the MEWP. Remind MEWP operators (e.g. during toolbox meetings) to lookout for overhead and surrounding obstacles that may impede operation or cause worker entrapment. Co-workers not trained in MEWP operation should never attempt to manoeuvre the MEWP under any circumstance.

Due to COVID-19, workplace activities may have slowed in some sectors. Refresher training is critical following a period of inactivity and it is strongly recommended that companies bring forward refresher training and conduct specific equipment familiarisation to refresh the worker's competency, especially for operators of heavy equipment. Do not rush to complete projects as this can lead to workplace accident or fatalities.

* Information on the accident is based on preliminary investigations by the Ministry of Manpower as at 3 Feb 2020. 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.

Accident Notification: Worker fell from cargo on trailer

On 2 February 2021, a prime mover driver was standing on some steel bars on his trailer bed assisting a forklift operator to adjust a steel bundle when he fell about 2m to the ground. The injured driver was conveyed to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

The Ministry of Manpower has commenced investigations into the accident.

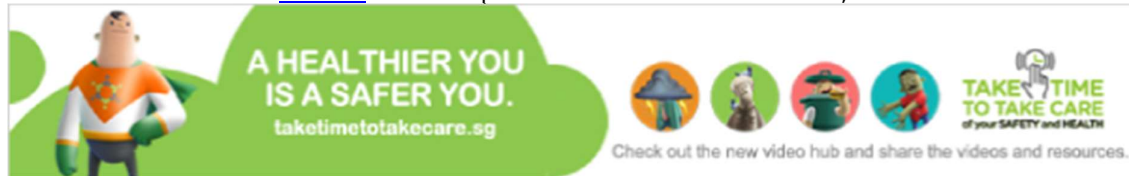
Employers and principals undertaking similar vehicular loading/ unloading work are advised to put in place suitable risk controls to prevent falls. Conduct an on-site risk

assessment and familiarise workers with the safe work procedure for the task prior to work commencement. Advise workers to never stand on or next to unstable cargo and especially if the cargo is being adjusted. Inform workers where they can position themselves during loading/unloading so that they do not fall and do not get struck by moving or falling cargo. Provide on-site supervision to ensure that the Safe Work Procedures is strictly followed. Consider other methods for loading/unloading (e.g. by using a lorry crane) which may be safer depending on site or cargo constraints.

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