

Worker injured after falling from order picker

A worker sustained serious injuries when he lost his footing on the platform of an order picker and fell about 6.5 metres to the ground. He and two other workers were in a warehouse installing wire meshes onto storage racks using the order picker. The injured worker has since recovered.

The injured worker did not use any fall arrest equipment.



Overview of accident scene.

Recommendations

Order pickers are typically designed for only one person to be on the work platform. To prevent similar accidents, consider the following measures:

- **No passengers:** Do not allow passengers on the order picker unless the order picker is specifically designed for it. Only the authorised order picker operator is allowed on the platform of the picker. Cover this safety requirement in toolbox briefings and install signs/stickers to convey this instruction to all workers.

- **Operator training:** Operators must be trained for the specific make and model of the order picker to be used, and familiar with the task to be carried out using the picker. Operators must also have completed the relevant WSH training for performing work at height.
- **Fall protection:** Equip the operator with fall arrest equipment. The safety harness and lanyard must be connected to the designated anchor point on the picker.
- **Safe work method:** Use the correct equipment for the task. For work at height requiring two or more persons, consider using a tower scaffold or scissor lift as these offer a larger and more stable work platform with guard railings to prevent falls. Provide workers with a safe work procedure (SWP) for wire mesh installation works.
- **Work supervision:** Provide on-site supervision to ensure adherence to SWPs.

For more information, refer to WSH (Work at Heights) Regulations 2013 and WSH Council's [Code of Practice for Working Safely at Heights](#).

* Please 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.

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