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WSH ALERT

SERIOUS ACCIDENT/ INCIDENT

Worker Flung Out of Work Platform

Two workers were standing on the elevated work platform of a boom lift carrying out painting works when a truck drove past and hit the platform, causing the platform to strike against a building column. Both workers were anchored to the work platform. One worker managed to stay within the work platform. However, the other worker was flung out and left suspended via his body harness. Both workers suffered injuries and were hospitalised but have since recovered.

Investigation revealed that both workers were not trained to perform work-at-height activities and operate boom lift. The supervisor who instructed one of the workers to operate the boom lift was not present when the accident occurred.



Figure 1: Scene of the accident.

Recommendations

The movement of mobile elevated work platforms (MEWPs) and other vehicles in the work area must be carefully planned as a collision can result in serious injury or fatality. To prevent similar accidents, consider the following measures:

- Traffic management:** Implement a workplace traffic management plan to facilitate safe movement of vehicles, including in work areas where MEWP operations are carried out. Place warning signs to indicate MEWP operations and use safety tape and/ or cones to mark out the MEWP operation zone. Deploy a traffic controller to guide vehicles away from pedestrians and other work, or stop the vehicles as necessary to avoid collision risks.
- Competent MEWP operator:** Deploy only competent and authorised operators to operate MEWPs such as a boom lift. Ensure all MEWP operators have been trained for works at height. Implement a strict key access control system to allow the issuance of MEWP ignition keys only to authorised operators. Instruct/ remind co-workers not trained in MEWP operation to never operate a MEWP under any circumstance.
- Permit-to-Work (PTW):** Implement a PTW system for MEWP work activities where a person could fall more than three metres. Permit checks to include ensuring risk controls are in place to prevent possible vehicle collisions during MEWP operations.
- Work supervision:** Provide on-site supervision to ensure safe work procedures are adhered to.
- Personal protection:** Provide all persons on the MEWP with personal protective equipment for works at height, including a safety helmet, safety shoes and a travel restraint system anchored to the manufacturers' designated anchor point inside the MEWP.



Figure 2: Harnesses to be anchored to the designated anchor point when working on MEWPs.

For more information, please refer to SS 616: 2016 Code of Practice for Safe Use of Mobile Elevated Work Platforms and WSH Council's [Code of Practice on WSH Risk Management](#), [WSH Guidelines on Workplace Traffic Safety Management](#), and [Sample Checklist for Workplace Traffic Management](#).

* 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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