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IPAF Guidance for Instructors and MEWP Operators

Important Dos and Don'ts to Avoid Trapping/Crushing Injuries while Working in a MEWP Platform

Operators can help to protect themselves from trapping/crushing injuries by following the Dos and Don'ts listed below.

The Dos and Don'ts are intended to be a non-exhaustive reminder or check list that operators, supervisors, instructors and others can refer to.

More detailed information can be found in the Strategic Forum for Construction Plant Safety Group's ***Best Practice Guidance for MEWPs: Avoiding Trapping/Crushing Injuries to People in the Platform*** available at the Publications section of www.ipaf.org

Before using the MEWP

Do

- Carry out daily checks

Do not

- Use a faulty or damaged MEWP
- Use a MEWP that has any safety feature or control over-ridden
- Travel or work on ground that is unsuitable for the type of MEWP

Before moving the platform or MEWP

Do

- Scan the area around and above the platform for obstructions
- Check the direction of platform movement with reference to the indicators on the MEWP base and the controls before operating the travel controls

Moving the platform or MEWP

Do

- Repeatedly scan the area in front and above the platform in the direction of movement
- Move at speeds that allow full control of the MEWP at all times
- Use control functions that allow fine control of platform movements when moving the platform close to obstructions and avoid the use of coarser controls
- Move the platform clear of obstructions before using the MEWP travel or main boom lift/lower and slew controls
- Take account of the over-run that may occur when controls are released suddenly

- Maintain sufficient vertical clearance between the platform and obstructions when moving the platform or manoeuvring the MEWP

Do not

- Lean over the guard rails while the MEWP is moving close to obstructions
- Lean over the control panel at any time
- Place objects on the platform control panel

Travelling into, to or from the work area

Do

- Adjust the platform position to ensure adequate clearance when passing under overhead obstructions
- Take account of platform movements due to the see-saw effect when travelling over uneven ground, potholes or steps

Do not

- Pass under overhead obstructions that have inadequate clearance, e.g. due to their size or because they have suffered damage

While working at height

Do

- Isolate power to the MEWP, whenever possible

Distractions

Do

- Remove objects on the ground that can obstruct MEWP movements (while the MEWP is moving the operator should scan around the platform rather than look at objects on the ground)

Do not

- Operate on ground which is littered with objects that could cause unexpected platform movements if the MEWP ran over them
- Use a mobile phone while operating the MEWP
- Work with loose materials or trailing leads/hoses on the platform floor

Training

Do not

- Operate a MEWP unless you are:-
 - trained to recognised standards,
 - familiar with that type of MEWP, and
 - instructed in local hazards and site rules

Rescue

Do not

- Operate a MEWP if you are unsure of the rescue procedure or there is no nominated person on the ground who is familiar with and who has practised the emergency lowering procedures

Ref. UKT2 07/11-002