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# IPAF INNOVATE 2018 WORKSHOP RESULTS



**Aerial and Mast Climber Workshop Challenge & Awards**  
**October 16 - 17, 2018, Pasadena, Texas, USA**

The aim of IPAF's Innovate event 2018 was to address key industry issues with the goal to develop potential solutions to improve the safe and effective use of Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs), formerly known as AWP's. To enable this, at the event, key industry players worked together in small groups to deliver achievable solutions which could positively impact the issue at hand. This paper provides a summary of each topic.



## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The workshop results from this paper will be reviewed by IPAF's North American Regional Council in their planning for annual goals. This will ensure that each topic is considered for potential action. The NARC will report back on the progress at Innovate 2019.



## 1. EXITING AN ELEVATED WORK PLATFORM

*Facilitator: Scott Owyen – Genie, Training Manager*

**Overview:** Accident statistics identify that falls from an elevated work platform are a leading hazard associated with MEWP operations. Within MEWP operations, occupants may have occasion to enter/exit a platform at height. This can be allowed only when permitted by the manufacturer and following the guidelines and instructions provided by the manufacturer.

**Issue being addressed:** To provide guidance to assist MEWP occupants in safely exiting and entering an MEWP at height.

**Proposed solution:** To develop an industry best practice document that is easily accessible and understood by owners, users and operators. This should ensure:

- Only properly trained, qualified and authorized personnel operate the machine;
- adherence to OSHA Regulations and ANSI Standards;
- to follow the manufacturer's written authorization and guidance. If this is not available, the operation must not proceed;
- to follow the employer's safe work practices;
- the operator uses their best judgement and experience to determine whether or not it is safe to exit the platform;
- only one person is allowed to exit the platform at any time;
- operators must maintain 100% tie-off at all times;
- a qualified person guards the ground controls at all times to prevent other personnel operating the MEWP;
- platform controls must not be operated when the person is out of the lift and still connected to the lift.
- movement of the boom or lift and external structure due to factors such as wind load, structure sway etc are taken into consideration;
- the platform must be located within one foot of the structure;
- the platform entry must be aligned with the pathway to the adjacent structure to eliminate pinch and crush points during transfer;
- the position of the platform is such that the operator does not have to jump down from or up to the platform;
- the operator exits or enters only through the gate, never over the railing;
- the surface being stepped on to is safe, stable and clear of debris to avoid slip, trip or any other hazards;
- that no part of the lift or boom contacts or rests upon the structure.



## 2. SITE RISK ASSESSMENT

*Facilitator: Mark Hinkel – Hinkel Equipment/Institute for Aerial Safety, President*

**Overview:** The requirement for users to develop a MEWP site risk assessment has been added to new industry standards with a detailed process to ensure the safe use and proper selection of MEWPs for each task.

**Issue being addressed:** Resources exist, but analysis shows that these resources are not being properly utilized by the people who they are intended for. Information needs to be easily available for operators in an application that anyone can access.

### **Proposed solution:**

- Develop and promote a mobile app;
- internet pop-ups on every MEWP-associated website;
- safety campaign banners for use at events, exhibitions and on work sites.

## 3. INTRODUCTION TO PLATFORM LOAD-SENSING; HOW IT WILL AFFECT YOU

*Facilitator: Bal Guerrero – Blueline Rental, Director HS&E*

**Overview:** New industry design standards require MEWPs to actively monitor allowable rated load and interrupt normal operations/sound an alarm if overloaded.

**Issue being addressed:** Users/operator: Understanding no overload is possible, identifying what equipment has load-sensing, planning for how high and how much weight and to select the right equipment.

### **Proposed solution:**

- Conventional solution – education and training;
- Safety bulletin issued with rental contracts during transition period;
- QR Code on MEWPs linking to eLearning operator education;
- Innovative idea = Audible system when machine turns on that tells the operator weight capacity on operating radius.



#### 4. RECOGNIZING AND AVOIDING ELECTROCUTION

*Facilitator: Matt Eckstine – Eckstine & Associates, Director of Operation*

**Overview:** Electrocution is the most common cause of recorded MEWP fatalities in the US.

**Issue being addressed:** The operator's inability to **recognize risk** and **avoid electrocution**.

##### **Proposed solution:**

- Conventional solution - education and training;
- Intelligent warning label;
- Fully insulated booms and platforms;
- Innovative ideas = Implementation of QR codes on machines and overhead power line detection device.

#### 5. MEWP RESCUE PLAN

*Facilitator: Jeff Stachowaik – Sunbelt, Director of safety Training*

**Overview:** New standards require a rescue plan as part of adequate MEWP risk assessment; calling 911 is not an acceptable option, rather self-rescue, assisted rescue or technical solution to lower or evacuate the platform.

**Issue being addressed:** Making it easier for user and operators to plan, implement and practice timely and effective rescue of MEWP occupants when an incident occurs.

**Proposed solution:** Awareness – trade publications; (2) Training for different types of rescue; (3) Identify proposed solution methods to implement in plans.

#### 6. DO WE KNOW WHAT A SAFE WORK SITE IS?

*Facilitator: Ian McGregor – Skyjack, Director of Product Safety*

**Overview:** Topic of jobsite safety is extremely broad. Education/awareness for operators and users exists, but others on the jobsite may not be aware.

**Issue being addressed:** Not everyone knows: What a safe worksite is with respect to MEWPs, potential impact to themselves, potential impact to others.

**Proposed solution:** Creation of basic educational campaign: **Look Up!** include posters, video, toolbox talk, etc and promote through all industry stakeholders – address falling objects, fall protection, entrapment and operator visibility.



## 7. NEAR MISSES

*Facilitator: Forrest Hester – Tutus Drop Prevention, CDO*

**Overview:** While documentation and reporting of an accident is required, the same cannot be stated with a near miss, which is an unplanned event that did not result in injury, illness, or damage – but had the potential to do so. A near miss not being reported is a missed opportunity to fix a known problem.

**Issue being addressed:** Establishing a system that will promote industry reporting of near miss incident.

**Proposed solution:** Developing a reporting system and structure that will create a standardized report at the incident level that will be collected and shared with all industry stakeholders so action can take place to eliminate or mitigate risk from known potential hazards. Create a campaign and reporting website for near misses reporting. Have stickers for MEWPs that have a QR code to link to reporting website.

## 8. RETRAINING

*Facilitator: Teresa Kee – United Rental, Corporate Director- Field Safety*

**Overview:** New industry standards require retraining based on several defined events.

**Issue being addressed:** Is there a difference between operator training and retraining? Is retraining equal to completing operator training again or is there a difference?

**Proposed solution:** Develop guidance and communications on retraining content and use, defining both general training and specific training requirements that return a previously trained person's status to that of a qualified operator.

## 9. SAFE MEWP TRAVELLING ON SITE

*Facilitator: Ebbe Christensen – Reachmaster, President*

**Overview:** Accidents happen when travelling with a MEWP on site with tip-over as the number one cause.

**Issue being addressed:** While a safe use plan is required, the operator is in control of MEWP movement and is the focus of eliminating the risk from this potential hazard

**Proposed solution:**

- Create an IPAF campaign “Do the math, walk the path” – supported by key tags, posters, decals, specific technical guidance, and e-shots;
- Develop an interactive app for site risk assessment;
- Develop a travelling-specific training course.



## 10. QUALIFIED SERVICE TECHNICIANS

*Facilitator: Andrew Martinez – JLG, Product Training Specialist*

**Overview:** How do we attract and develop the next generation of industry qualified MEWP service technicians?

**Issue being addressed:** Minimum qualifications for entry-level technicians, attracting and recruiting new mechanics/talent, getting technicians into the field and getting them qualified.

**Proposed solution:** Set minimum industry standards, partner with a community college/technical school to create an apprenticeship program and complement requirements with OEM unit specific training.

For more details about the Innovate 2018 event, and for updates about Innovate 2019, please visit [www.ipaf.org/innovate](http://www.ipaf.org/innovate)