



MCWP AND CONSTRUCTION HOIST RESCUE PLAN TOOLBOX TALK

WHY IS A RESCUE PLAN IMPORTANT?

Quickly rescuing someone who has become trapped at height can make a very significant difference to the injuries sustained – it may be the difference between life and death.

WHAT IS A RESCUE PLAN?

A rescue plan is a procedure to retrieve the Mast Climbing Work Platform (MCWP) or Construction Hoist occupants in case of malfunction or emergency.

Such as:

- Malfunction or breakdown which disables emergency descent system
- Snagged or trapped cabin on a Construction Hoist or the platform on a MCWP
- Platform or cabin overload
- Operator/occupant distress
- Other emergencies

WHEN IS A RESCUE PLAN NEEDED?

Health and safety legislation/law requires a safe system of work for all activities. A rescue plan must be prepared and communicated to all personnel before anyone operates a MCWP or Construction Hoist.

In some countries a rescue plan is a legal requirement and must be followed.

READ AND PRACTICE THE RESCUE PLAN BEFORE YOU NEED IT.

WHO NEEDS TO KNOW?

This toolbox talk applies to:

- User (who has control of the use of the MCWP or Construction Hoist on site).
- Site managers and supervisors where MCWPs and Construction Hoists are in use.
- MCWP and Construction Hoist operators/occupants.
- Nominated ground rescue person.

WHAT ARE THE FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHILST PREPARING THE RESCUE PLAN?

- Are operators trained and competent and passengers fully familiarised in the use of the emergency descent system?
- Can the MCWP or the Construction Hoist operator operate the platform controls?
- Who will be in the vicinity if a rescue is required?
- Are ground rescue personnel familiarised and competent in the rescue process?
- How will you communicate with the MCWP/hoist operator when the platform is elevated?

WHAT TO DO NEXT

Brief all personnel on the rescue plan and practice it before work commences.

The User must:

- Nominate a person in the rescue plan who will be at ground level
- Keep the rescue plan readily available for all personnel
- Conduct periodic reviews of the rescue plan to check for changes in the worksite, operations and personnel etc.
- Ensure that emergency descent and rescue plan is practiced regularly

The nominated ground rescue person must be:

- Familiarised with the emergency descent systems of all the MCWPs and Hoists covered in the rescue plan.
- Be available to conduct rescue whenever MCWPs or Hoists are in operation.

REMEMBER

If the rescue plan is not practised it could fail

USEFUL REFERENCES

- IPAF MCWP Site Safety Guide and IPAF Construction Hoist Operator Safety Guide (available on the ePAL app www.ipaf.org/ePAL)
- Andy Access 'Don't overload the Platform' and 'Don't overload the Hoist' posters (available at www.ipaf.org/andyaccess)
- Chapter 13.9 of BS7981 Code of practice for the installation, maintenance, thorough examination and safe use of MCWP