

# MEWP RESCUE PLAN TOOLBOX TALK

A Rescue Plan is a documented procedure to follow to lower the platform in case of an emergency such as an operator being incapacitated, or a machine malfunction. Rescue Plans should be developed by competent persons and be distributed to Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) operators and nominated ground control rescue personnel. Quickly rescuing someone who is trapped or incapacitated may mean the difference between life and death. This Toolbox Talk provides information on the importance of a Rescue Plan and suggests ways to develop and deliver it.

## WHEN IS A RESCUE PLAN NEEDED?

To comply with regional legislation, standards, and best practice, a Rescue Plan should be developed, documented, and communicated before anyone operates a MEWP.

Examples of when a Rescue Plan is required:

- A loss of main power to the MEWP due to flat batteries or running out of fuel
- MEWP technical malfunction
- Snagged or trapped platform
- Platform overloaded
- An incapacitated operator or platform occupant

## WHAT ARE THE FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHILST DEVELOPING A RESCUE PLAN?

- The work activity
- The position the platform (height and reach)
- The availability and contact details of a service engineer/technician to attend site to assist in the recovery if required
- Will there be more than one person required to lower the platform using the emergency/auxiliary lowering controls
- The environment (indoors, noise, weather)
- Other equipment working in the same area
- The number of platform occupants (including the operator)
- Other considerations, or the effect of lowering the platform that could potentially result in further

## WHO NEEDS TO KNOW?

This Toolbox Talk applies to all individuals involved in the safe operation of a MEWP including:

- User (Person or company who has control of the MEWP on site)
- MEWP operator
- Nominated ground control rescue personnel
- Managers and supervisors

injuries and/or the operator falling from the platform

- The competence of the operator and nominated ground rescue personnel
- The safe removal of an incapacitated platform occupant once the platform has been lowered to the stowed position

## THE USER MUST:

- Keep the Rescue Plan readily available and visible
- Conduct periodic reviews of the Rescue Plan and check for changes in worksite operations
- Ensure the Rescue Plan is practiced regularly

## THE MEWP OPERATOR MUST:

- Read and understand the Rescue Plan
- Discuss the work activities with the nominated ground rescue personnel
- Check communications are working with the nominated ground rescue personnel
- Brief other platform occupants on the Rescue Plan requirements
- Ensure that the MEWP is positioned so that the ground controls and the emergency lowering controls are accessible in case of an emergency

## THE NOMINATED GROUND CONTROL RESCUE PERSON(S) MUST BE:

- Familiarised with the MEWP's ground controls and emergency lowering controls
- Available and capable to conduct rescue whenever MEWPs are in operation
- Able to raise the alarm in case of an emergency
- Available to contact the MEWP operator at all times

## USEFUL REFERENCES

- IPAF Operators' Safety Guide
- IPAF Guidance on Emergency Rescue
- IPAF Rescue of Persons from MEWPs
- IPAF Good Practice Guidance for Preventing Trapping/Crushing Injuries to People in MEWPs
- Manufacturer Operators Manual (available via [www.ipaf.org/manufacturers](http://www.ipaf.org/manufacturers))