



## **Work Safety Alert** **Trapped in Elevating Work Platform**

1. **Date of Accident** : May 2024
2. **Place of Accident** : A sport stadium under construction
3. **Summary :**

A worker was trapped to death between the top guardrail of a power-operated elevating work platform (“EWP”) and a roof edge when operating the EWP.

### **4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Proprietors:**

To prevent any workers/ operators from being trapped by any obstacles while working on an EWP, contractors/ proprietors should provide and maintain a safe system of work which may include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work, taking into account the nature of work to be carried out, the work environment, the presence of any fixtures/ structures in the vicinity and the operation of the EWP;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of the risk assessments, which should comply with the requirements of safety legislation and relevant safety guidelines;
- inspecting, testing, and properly maintaining the EWP in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions to ensure its safe working condition;
- limiting the height of the EWP appropriately to ensure that workers can stand on the platform to work safely;



- ensuring that every control of a power-operated EWP should be of the "deadman" type so that it could automatically return to neutral or off position when released, and the controls should be positioned or protected against accidental operation or damage;
- ensuring that the function of each control device should be clearly indicated and marked on or beside the device;
- ensuring that a clearly marked overriding lowering control should be fitted to enable an operator at the ground level to lower the platform of the EWP in an emergency;
- where practicable, fitting an appropriate secondary guarding device such as physical barriers, pressure sensing devices or proximity sensing devices to avoid trapping hazards to those on the platform;
- ensuring that the EWP is only operated by a trained and competent workman;
- providing adequate procedures to deal with emergency situations;
- providing all workers/ operators involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures including the procedures to deal with emergency situations and the necessary safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure that all safety measures are strictly followed.

## 5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Click to view document



- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Power-operated Elevating Work Platforms<sup>1</sup>](#)

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**DISCLAIMER**

This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.

Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.