



# MEWP RESCUE PROCEDURES TOOLBOX TALK

## WHY DO YOU NEED RESCUE PROCEDURES?

A robust, documented rescue procedure is required to lower the Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) platform occupants in case of a malfunction or emergency. These may be caused by:

- MEWP stopped due to no fuel or low battery.
- MEWP malfunction.
- Trapped platform or MEWP upper structure.
- Platform overload.
- Operator/occupant distress (health issues, entrapment, electrocution, etc.).
- Other emergencies.

**Any delay in rescuing the MEWP platform occupants may be the difference between life and death.**

## WHAT IS REQUIRED?

Your employer must provide you with a documented rescue plan BEFORE you elevate. The rescue plan must identify how the MEWP will be returned to ground level or a safe area, in case of an incident at height. The Rescue Plan should also identify who is (are) the Nominated Ground Rescue Person(s).

**Note: Some MEWPs may require more than one physically fit person to operate the auxiliary/emergency descent system.**

The operator should test the functionality of the ground and the auxiliary/emergency lowering systems during the pre-use inspection.

The Nominated Ground Rescue Person(s) should: be available and at ground level when the MEWP is in use; be familiarised with the MEWP's ground and auxiliary/emergency controls; practice the rescue procedures through rescue drills; have a method of communication with the MEWP operator and platform occupants.

## WHO NEEDS TO KNOW?

This Toolbox talk applies to:

- MEWP User (who has control of the use of the MEWP on site)
- Supervisor/Site Manager
- Nominated Ground Rescue Person(s)
- MEWP Operator

## WHAT SHOULD THE MEWP USER DO?

- Identify and train and familiarise your nominated ground rescue person(s).
- MEWP manufacturers have different procedures to lower the platform from the ground and auxiliary/emergency controls.
- Only allow the MEWP to be operated after a documented rescue plan is in place and practiced.
- Brief operators to position the MEWP such that the ground control and any rescue control panel are fully accessible to the Nominated Ground Rescue Person(s).

## WHAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHEN NOMINATING GROUND RESCUE PERSON(S)?

- They understand the site constraints and hazards when operating the ground and auxiliary/emergency lowering systems.
- They know the manufacturer's instructions to safely control the MEWP platform to a safe rescue position.
- Perform regular rescue drills to avoid panic.

## REMEMBER

After a rescue it is recommended practice to:

- Isolate the machine (remove the keys).
- Tag the machine.
- Report the incident to the user.
- Investigate the cause of why a rescue was required.



## USEFUL REFERENCES

- IPAF MEWP Operator's Safety Guide
- Manufacturer's Operation Manuals and MEWP lowering labels
- Andy Access posters (available at [www.ipaf.org/andyaccess](http://www.ipaf.org/andyaccess))
- IPAF Rescue Plan and Pre-use inspection Toolbox Talks (available at [www.ipaf.org/resources](http://www.ipaf.org/resources))
- CIPSG Guidance on reducing trapping and crushing injuries to MEWP platform occupants