SAFETY AWARENESS

Brief Topic Safety Refresher Training For Associates

2024

Mobile Elevated Work Platforms

Mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs) come in a variety of designs and unique performance characteristics. Understanding what each machine's capabilities are is essential to selecting the right MEWP for a particular project. ANSI Standards require that companies employ an appropriate MEWP for the task, so it's important for you to understand all of the different MEWP options available as you create a safe use plan.

MEWP Classifications

MEWPs are classified according to two key distinguishing descriptions:

- A MEWP group is determined by the platform's location in reference to the tipping line
 - o Group A machines have a design that does not allow the main platform to extend beyond the tipping line. Scissor lifts are part of this group.
 - o Group B machines have platforms that are designed to extend beyond the tipping line. Articulating and telescopic booms are part of this group.
- A **MEWP** type is in reference to travel.
 - Type 1 machines are only allowed to travel with the MEWP in its stowed position. Manually propelled vertical lifts are part of this group.
 - Type 2 machines travel with the work platform in the elevated position and controlled from a point on the chassis. Underground-bridge inspection machines are part of this group.
 - Type 3 MEWP can travel in an elevated position and is controlled from a point on the work platform. Scissor lifts, as well as articulated and telescopic booms, are good examples of this group.

Determining the Correct MEWP for the Job

These classifications are important to know as you determine, which type you should use for a project. Using the wrong machine could result in injury or death, damage to the machine or damage to the work location. As you weigh your needs, answer the following questions.

- Who is using the equipment and how many people will be in the platform at once? Also, have they been trained?
- What kind of work is being done, what's being lifted and what hazards exist on the worksite?
- How will the equipment be used and at what height and reach?
- Where will the MEWP be used and what kind of environment will it be operating in?
- When will the equipment be needed and for how long?

Answering these questions will help you determine the group and type MEWP you need. Your answers can also assist in identifying an appropriate model.

Each MEWP industry has specific needs which is why manufacturers offer so many different models in each of the MEWP classifications. Options range from how a MEWP is propelled to several different power options and engine types. There are also many different tire/track and steering options available depending on the category of MEWP.

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MEWP Safe Use Plan

Once equipment is in the field, operators must follow the prescribed operating practices outlined in the manufacturer's operator's manual to keep the equipment working safely and productively.

Receive Proper Training

All employees should complete the proper general and hands-on training with a qualified trainer on the specific equipment they will be operating. This includes thoroughly reading the operator's manual and safety signs on the machine, as well as, understanding the function and location of all safety devices and controls before operation.

Inspect Equipment and the Work Zone

Perform a pre-operation inspection and function tests on the equipment before each shift. Never use damaged or malfunctioning aerial equipment. Also perform a workplace risk assessment prior to moving a machine to the jobsite. Look for hazardous situations like drop-offs, holes, slopes, slippery or unstable surfaces, overhead obstacles, high-voltage power sources and any other hazards that may exist and develop a plan to eliminate or avoid them.

Emphasize Communication

Communicate hazards to other personnel. Never assume that a coworker is aware of the risks involved in a task. Whenever possible, have operators keep a cell phone or two-way radio with them in the lift platform and always have a rescue plan in place in case the secondary lowering system malfunctions.

Wear the Proper Personal Protection Equipment

When required, wear the proper fall protection and always connect it to the designated anchor points. A properly fitted full-body harness and appropriate lanyard or self-retracting lifeline will reduce the potential for an operator to fall from the platform of a lift. Other PPE such as a safety vest, steel-toed boots and a hardhat should be selected based on the conditions in your facility.

Only Elevate on a Firm, Level Surface

If the tilt alarm sounds, it means you need to move to a level surface before elevating the platform. If you are already elevated when the alarm sounds, immediately lower the platform and move to a firm, level area.

Name	Signature	Name	Signature