TOOLBOX TALK #53

Vital GRP

Mobile elevating platforms

Prepare: Quiet location? No distractions? Talk aids ready?

Reason: MEWPs of various types are used extensively to

gain access.

Why: They are very useful items of plant if used

correctly but can be very dangerous if not used

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in a safe manner.

Outline: This talk will cover the hazards and safe

operating methods for mobile elevating

platforms.



Hazards

- Operatives falling from height due to unsafe work practices.
- Overturning of the machine due to poor operating technique or unsatisfactory ground conditions.
- Collision with other vehicles (knuckle or elbow of boom moving into the path of other traffic).
- Tools and materials etc. falling from height.
- Contact with high level, live electrical cables and other obstructions.
- Exhaust fumes if using in a confined area.
- High wind speeds and other adverse weather conditions.

Q: What particular hazards are present in your current work area?

Precautions

- All operators of mobile elevating work platforms must be trained in their use.
- Operators should only operate the types of mobile elevating platform for which they have been trained.
- Always check that the machine is stable before use.
- Use outriggers or stabilisers where necessary.
- Except for scissor lifts users should wear a safety harness clipped to machine.

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the extra weight.

Ensure that the ground conditions are suitable for the type of machine in use. Do not load the machine beyond its safe working load. If your work involves removing equipment or materials from a structure do not forget to allow for

Q: How can you determine the safe working load of any machine?

- When manoeuvring in a confined area or where members of the public are at risk always use a signaller.
- Be prepared to stop work and return to ground level if the wind speed or weather conditions deteriorate to an unacceptable level.

Q: How can you find out who is qualified to operate a MEWP on this site?

Refuelling

Always turn the engine off before refuelling. LPG powered machines must be refuelled in open spaces where any spillage can easily and quickly disperse. It is good practice to carry out refuelling of all machines in the open air.

Avoid skin contact if refuelling diesel oil and clean up any spillage to avoid a slipping hazard.

Q: Where is spare fuel stored and refuelling carried out on this site?

Do you have any questions for me?

Sources: Mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs) - HSE

OC 314/20::Preventing falls from mobile elevating work platforms (mewps) and selection and use of fall protection equipment Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs) - HSE

For more information
Call: +44(0) 1206 396446
Email: sales@vitalgrp.co.uk
vitalgrp.co.uk