

# MEWP RESCUE PLAN TOOLBOX TALK

## WHY IS A RESCUE PLAN IMPORTANT?

Quickly rescuing someone who has become trapped can make a very significant difference to the injuries sustained – it may be the difference between life and death.

## WHAT IS A RESCUE PLAN?

A rescue plan is a plan to retrieve the mobile elevating work platform (MEWP) occupants in case of malfunction or emergency:

- MEWP stopped due to no fuel or low battery;
- MEWP malfunction;
- Snagged or trapped platform;
- Platform overload;
- Operator/occupant distress;
- Other emergencies.

## WHEN IS A RESCUE PLAN NEEDED?

Health and safety legislation requires a safe system of work for all work activities. A rescue plan must be communicated before any person operates a MEWP at height.

**Read and rehearse the rescue plan BEFORE you need it.**

## WHAT ARE THE FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHILE DESIGNING THE RESCUE PLAN?

- Who will be in the vicinity if a rescue is needed?
- Are ground rescue personnel familiarised and competent in the rescue process? Do they know how to use the ground controls, the auxiliary and emergency descent systems?
- How will you communicate with the MEWP operator when the platform is elevated?
- Can the MEWP operator operate the platform controls?

## WHO NEEDS TO KNOW?

This toolbox talk applies to:

- User (who has control of the use of the MEWP on site);
- Site managers and supervisors where MEWPs are in use;
- MEWP operators/occupants;
- Nominated ground rescue person.

## WHAT TO DO NEXT

Brief all personnel on the rescue plan and practice the emergency procedures.

### The user must:

- Lead the rescue or nominate in the rescue plan, a ground rescue person that is familiarised and competent with the MEWP;
- Keep the plan readily available and visible;
- Conduct periodic reviews of the rescue plan to check for changes in the worksite, operations, etc.;
- PRACTISE the plan regularly.

### The nominated ground rescue person must be:

- Familiarised with the ground and auxiliary descent systems of all the MEWPs covered in the rescue plan;
- Available to conduct rescue whenever MEWPs are in operation.

**REMEMBER**  
If the rescue plan  
is not practised  
it could fail



## USEFUL REFERENCES (available at [www.ipaf.org/resources](http://www.ipaf.org/resources))

- IPAF Guidance on Emergency Rescue Reference xxBM 07/14
- Rescue of Persons from MEWPs (Plant Safety Group 1625/tpw/27.06.18)
- Best Practices guidance for MEWPs – Parts 1 & 2