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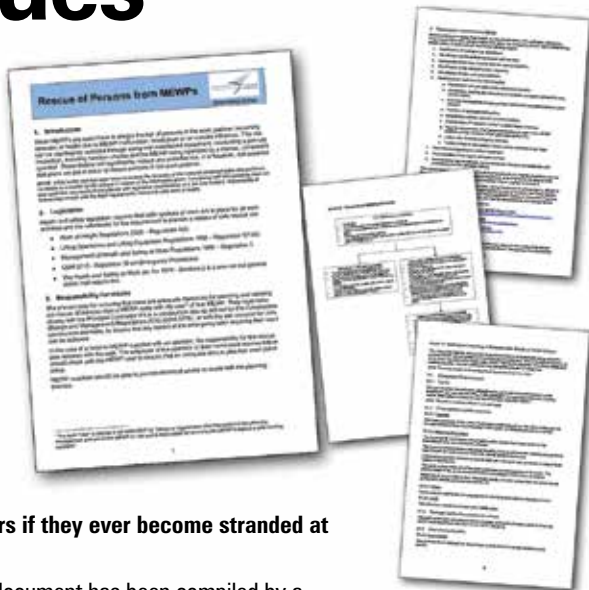
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# New guidance for Work at Height rescues

A new concise safety document entitled 'Rescue of Persons from MEWPs' is now freely available. Published by the UK's Strategic Forum Plant Safety Group, the 10-page publication provides guidance to put plans in place to rescue aerial work platform users if they ever become stranded at height.



The new guidance document has been compiled by a group chaired by the Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA) and administered and supported by the International Powered Access Federation (IPAF).

CPA chief executive Kevin Minton said: "We anticipate that the guidance will be a useful reference tool for hire companies, customers, operators and manufacturers. When aerial work platforms are used there is always a risk of people becoming stranded at height due to a machine malfunctioning. Although measures can be put into place to reduce the risk, such as regular maintenance and the use of competent, medically fit operators, it is still important that organisations have plans in place should a rescue become necessary.

"The publication gives guidance to the organisation that has control of the planning, management and use of the platform on site. Presented in easily digestible sections, it covers factors such as the Health and Safety legislative requirements, responsibility for rescue, means of rescue, the use of the Emergency Services and discusses scenarios such as rescues using another platform."

The publication is available for anyone to freely download from the CPA website at [www.cpa.uk.net/sfpgpublications](http://www.cpa.uk.net/sfpgpublications) or from IPAF's website at [www.ipaf.org/guidance](http://www.ipaf.org/guidance)

## New CPA chairman

At the recent CPA Annual General Meeting, Steven Mulholland was elected as chairman of the association, he was previously vice chairman. The founder of Mulholland Plant Services thanked his predecessor, Steve Cormack of Nationwide Platforms, for the work he has carried out for the association during his three year tenure. At the same meeting Paul Allman director of the Hawk group, was also elected as vice chairman, while Brian Jones was re-elected president.



Steven Mulholland

Jones said: "I am very much looking forward to working more closely with Steven, Kevin and the CPA Council to take the association forward in its next stage of development. I am confident that we have a strong team in place to tackle the challenges that the sector faces, such as the effect of Brexit on the workforce, and the many changes we are seeing in the skills and training arena. We will continue to look for efficient and economic solutions to support our Members and the construction plant hire sector."

# Launch of Revised Medical Fitness Good Practice Guide

The Strategic Forum Plant Safety Group chaired by the Construction CPA, has launched a refreshed version of the 'Medical Fitness to Operate Construction Plant - Good Practice Guide'.

The 52 page guide has primarily been revised to take into account the Data Protection Act 2018, which incorporates the European General Data Protection Regulation 2016, and the latest requirements involving employers' duties for the collection and use of employees' health information.

Kevin Minton said: "Construction equipment has the potential to injure or kill both operators and bystanders if it is operated, installed or maintained by those who are not medically fit to do so. It is essential that operators are physically and mentally capable of undertaking the tasks they are required to carry out. Employers have a duty to ensure that their employees have the required level of fitness for their job and this guidance is aimed at providing the tools to do this."

"It was important to update the Guide as the new Data Protection regulations mark a significant change in obligations for employers and how they handle sensitive information about employees' physical or mental health, such as in the context of managing occupational health. The advice in the guidance is straightforward, comprehensive, easy to adopt and represents good practice which may go further than the minimum employers need to do in order to comply with the law".

This guidance provides clarity about the medical fitness assessment process and outlines the steps that should be taken by employers and others in the construction sector such as principal, main and sub-contractors, who also have an interest in ensuring that operators have an appropriate level of fitness. In particular it deals with planning, setting up and implementation of medical fitness assessment systems, the medical fitness aspects of recruitment and managing those employees who may develop health problems whilst at work.

The 'Medical Fitness to Operate Construction Plant - Good Practice Guide' publication is available for anyone to download from the CPA website at <http://www.cpa.uk.net/sfpgpublications/>

