


Scissor lift platforms





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EWPA updates crushing guidance

Australia's Elevating Work Platform Association has updated its guidance on the background, risk assessment, selection and use of secondary guarding systems for aerial work platforms.

The information sheet, entitled 'What do I need to know about Secondary Guarding Systems for Mobile Elevating Work Platforms' outlines the potential risks of becoming trapped or crushed between the platform and an external obstruction. It also highlights how second guarding systems, in conjunction with planning, platform selection and operator training can further minimise the risks of an entrapment incident.

A free copy can be downloaded from www.ewpa.com.au



£220k fine for near miss

UK based M&J Hire Centres has been fined £220,000 and ordered to pay costs of £65,443 by the Health & Safety Executive after an apprentice narrowly avoided a potentially fatal crushing injury involving a mobile crane.

The incident occurred in August 2016 when the apprentice climbed onto the roof of a portable cabin to sling a power float. The operator began to extend the boom and move the crane closer, when it tipped, with the boom coming down onto the cabin. The apprentice jumped out of the way but fell from roof causing injuries to his leg and back.

An investigation found the company did not have a safe system of work in place and that crane operator had not been adequately trained. There was no clear instruction concerning the use of the crane and no way of ensuring that the apprentice was suitably managed.

HSE inspector Nigel Fitzhugh said: "Those in control of work have a responsibility to provide adequate training to their employees so that they can operate equipment safely and devise safe methods of working."

Premier to offer VR PAL+

UK training and rental company Premier Platforms has become one of the first training centres to offer IPAF's Virtual Reality (VR) PAL+ course after its instructor, Daniel Williamson, passed the theory and practical elements of the course virtually. Pal+ was launched in 2012 as an optional one day course to provide additional training for high risk or challenging environments. The course was recently updated to be completed using a virtual reality simulator.



\$2,160 for wrong licence

SafeWork SA charged an unnamed contractor \$2,160 for allowing a person working on its site to operate a boom lift without a high risk work licence. An inspector spotted the person operating the platform of over 11 metres while carrying out a compliance audit and discovered that they did not hold the appropriate licence. The business had also failed to check that he held one.

\$180k for ignored warnings

New Zealand construction company Hobson Construction has been fined \$180,000 after ignoring a notice to stop work until safety measures were improved. The prohibition notice was issued after a WorkSafe inspector visited one of its sites in 2018



noting a number of health and safety failings relating to inadequate fall protection and working from height. He subsequently stopped all work to the second level of the building until adequate fall protection was installed, however this was ignored on three occasions.

Danielle Henry of WorkSafe said: "There doesn't need to be harm for WorkSafe to prosecute. In this instance, by not ensuring adequate fall protection was in place, the business was putting its workers at risk of a fall from height."

Hobson had previously been issued six prohibition notices relating to unsafe work at multiple sites around Auckland, including two at the site above.

Crane operator fined

A crane operator in New York was fined \$1,600 for operating a luffing jib tower crane without a valid licence. The operator, Wayne Miller, was working with the contractor J.F. Stearns in April 2016 when, according to the Department of Buildings, he operated the crane without the proper endorsement and renewal. He was fined \$1,600 for not updating his licence.

Who trained them?

What do you do when your crane does not quite have enough capacity and becomes light on its feet? Add some human counterweight of course!

