

Admiral Safety Ltd



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| Date | 28 November 2011 |
| Issue Ref: | HSE Information Sheet - 0008 |
| Topic: | Entrapment whilst working from Mobile Elevated Working Platform (MEWP) |
| Details: Source ESCS | <p>A worker was injured and left unconscious when the controls of the MEWP he was using were inadvertently activated</p> <p>On Thursday 3 November 2011 a two man team were deployed to fitting refurbished lamps in a Boiler House at a height of circa 7m. The work was being conducted by a single man from the basket of a Mobile Elevated Working Platform (MEWP) 'cherry-picker', whilst his colleague was deployed in an emergency standby role.</p> <p>The Injured Party (IP), who was working with his head above an adjacent redundant fire main, had just finished connecting the refurbished lamp to the lighting system and had then lifted the fitting onto a pair of suspension chains that were attached to a bracket at roof level.</p> <p>The IP did not realise that he had rested the fitting on the guard covering the machine controls which left slack in the suspension chains. As he activated the fly jib tilt switch the fitting "slid off" the guard activating the MEWP track handle.</p> <p>The MEWP moved forwards at a speed of about 0.1mph trapping the back of the IP's neck against the redundant water main, it is suspected that this entrapment affected the IP's blood supply to his brain, causing him to lose consciousness.</p> <p>His colleague at ground level immediately reacted and isolated the machine by depressing the emergency stop at ground level before lowering the elevated platform of the MEWP to the ground. On his release from the entrapment the IP quickly recovered consciousness. He was given First Aid Treatment on site for a cut to his nose before being taken to Accident and Emergency (A&E) for a full assessment.</p> <p>The IP returned to work the same day having been released from A&E although the incident was RIDDOR reportable</p> |
| Recommended Action: | <p>Consider the quarantine all MEWPs which do not have a platform control panel protective guard.</p> <p>Ensure that suppliers of hired in MEWP check that the control guard is properly fitted.</p> <p>For company owned MEWPs ensure that the manufacturer checks that the control guard is properly fitted.</p> <p>Specify that any newly hired/purchased MEWPs come with a factory fitted control guard</p> |
| Links/ References | http://www.hse.gov.uk/falls/goodpractice.htm |

Picture:

Position of lamp fitting, which slipped to operate the MEWP tracking handle



**Any queries please call Admiral Safety Ltd on 07711 033663 or email –
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