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## **IPAF Guidance for Instructors and MEWP Operators**

### **Important Dos and Don'ts to Avoid Trapping/Crushing Injuries while Working in a MEWP Platform**

Operators can help to protect themselves from trapping/crushing injuries by following the Dos and Don'ts listed below.

The Dos and Don'ts are intended to be a non-exhaustive reminder or check list that operators, supervisors, instructors and others can refer to.

*[Note: This check list is particularly aimed at the avoidance of trapping/crushing risks and should not be used for general training purposes.]*

#### ***Before moving the platform or MEWP***

##### ***Do***

- Scan the area around the platform for obstructions
- Check the direction of platform movement with reference to the indicators on the MEWP base and the controls before operating the travel controls

#### ***Moving the platform or MEWP***

##### ***Do***

- Repeatedly scan the area in front and above the platform in the direction of movement
- Move at speeds that allow full control at all times
- Use control functions that allow fine control of platform movements when moving the platform close to obstructions and avoid the use of coarser controls
- Move the platform clear of obstructions before using the MEWP travel or main boom lift/lower and slew controls
- Take account of the over-run that can occur when controls are released
- Maintain sufficient vertical clearance between the platform and obstructions when moving the platform or manoeuvring the MEWP

##### ***Do not***

- Lean over the guard rails while the MEWP is moving close to obstructions
- Lean over the control panel at any time
- Place objects on the platform control panel

### ***Travelling into, to or from the work area***

#### ***Do***

- Adjust the platform position to ensure adequate clearance when passing under overhead obstructions
- Take account of platform movements due to the see-saw effect when travelling over uneven ground, potholes or steps

#### ***Do not***

- Pass under overhead obstructions that have inadequate clearance, e.g. due to their size or because they have suffered damage

### ***While working at height***

#### ***Do***

- Isolate power to the MEWP, whenever possible

### ***Distractions***

#### ***Do***

- Remove objects on the ground that can obstruct MEWP movements (while the MEWP is moving the operator should scan around the platform rather than look at objects on the ground)

#### ***Do not***

- Operate on ground which is littered with objects that could cause unexpected platform movements if the MEWP ran over them
- Carry mobile phones while in the MEWP platform
- Work with loose materials or trailing leads/hoses on the platform floor

### ***Rescue***

#### ***Do not***

- Operate a MEWP if there is no nominated person on the ground who is familiar with and has practised the emergency lowering procedures

### ***Training***

#### ***Do not***

- Operate a MEWP unless you are:-
  - trained to recognised standards,
  - familiar with that type of MEWP, and
  - instructed in local hazards and site rules

### ***Before using the MEWP***

#### ***Do***

- Carry out daily checks

#### ***Do not***

- Use a faulty or damaged MEWP
- Use a MEWP that has any safety feature or control over-ridden
- Travel or work on ground that is unsuitable for the type of MEWP