



Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety Unit

OH&S Alert!

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Safe use of Elevated Work Platforms

Elevated Work Platform (EWP) is the name given to a variety of platforms that provide a safe option when working at heights. Scissor lifts, cherry pickers, boom lifts and travel towers are all types of EWPs.

There are battery powered and internal engine types. Some are designed to be operated only on level surfaces whilst others can be operated on rough terrain.

Operators of boom-type EWPs with a reach above 11 metres must hold a 'licence to perform high risk work' endorsed with the competency - WP.

Safety tips for EWPs

- All hired aerial access equipment must arrive on site with an operator's manual and a log book.
- Do not operate an EWP without completing a pre-start check.
- Appropriate emergency procedures are required:
 - ~ Emergency descent switches should be identified and tested prior to operation



- ~ Ground controls and descent valves should be known by all personnel.
- Care must be taken when working near power lines. EWPs must not operate within 3 metres of power lines unless Energy Safe Victoria No Go Zone safety provisions have been complied with – this includes Permits to Work and Spotters. See www.esv.vic.gov.au for details.
- A harness must be worn at all times in boom-type EWPs.
- Do not operate an EWP if you have not been trained in the safe use of the machine.
- Select the most appropriate EWP for the task.
- Never enter or leave the platform when it is elevated.
- Remain within the confines of the work platform at all times.
- Do not stand on the handrails of the platform.
- EWPs must not be used as a crane or hoist.
- Materials must not be slung or attached to the side of an EWP, unless the attachment has been specifically designed, rated, tested, marked and approved by the manufacturer of the EWP.
- Do not operate an EWP on uncompacted ground.
- The CFMEU advises that best practice is that EWPs should not be moved while in an elevated position.

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Authorised by Bill Oliver, Secretary, Tommy Watson and John Setka, Assistant Secretaries of the CFMEU Construction and General Division.

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