



A WORKER WAS TRAPPED BETWEEN A MOBILE ELEVATING WORK PLATFORM AND A STEEL STRUCTURE AT A CONSTRUCTION SITE IN THE AIRPORT

An accident happened on 17 November 2024 in which a worker while working on a mobile elevating work platform (MEWP) at a construction site in the airport, was trapped between the platform and a steel structure. The worker was sent to hospital for treatment. The Construction Industry Council (CIC) would like to deliver this safety message for your attention. It would be appreciated if you could distribute the message below to your fellow members, relevant personnel or other industry stakeholders where appropriate. Thank you very much.

Common Accidents

1. Operator being trapped between the MEWP and other fixed objects while the MEWP is moving.
2. The operator accidentally contacts or improperly operates the control devices on the MEWP.
3. Failure to operate the MEWP in accordance with the manufacturer's manual.
4. Untrained worker operates the MEWP.
5. Failure to conduct dynamic risk assessments and not taking appropriate safety measures in response to changes in the surrounding environment and procedures.



Critical Control Measures

1. Prior to the commencement of works, construction team should conduct dynamic risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the work by taking into account the nature of works, the working environment, the ground condition and the limitations of the type of MEWP.
2. Formulate detailed safe working procedures with due regard to the result of the risk assessment, and in conformity with the instructions given in the machine manufacturer's manual.
3. A MEWP should only be operated by persons who have received suitable training and are competent to operate the machine.
4. The function of each control device of the MEWP should be clearly indicated and marked on or beside the devices.
5. Before and while moving the MEWP, make sure there are no surrounding obstacles and no one is nearby.
6. Consider installing appropriate secondary protection devices on the MEWP; for example, Tripping Device for stoppage. When a worker accidentally contacts the activation cable on the control panel, the ascending and driving functions on the platform will be immediately suspended, thereby reducing the risk of the worker being trapped by the platform.
7. Adopt safety technologies to enhance safety management and reduce risks; for example, install the Smart Sensor on the MEWP. When the MEWP is ascending and the worker's head is approaching an overhead obstacle, the siren from the system will be activated instantly, and the elevating operation will be suspended to safeguard the worker.
8. Provide workers with all necessary safety information, instructions and training, and ensure that they are familiar with safe working procedures, safety measures and are using MEWP properly.
9. Establish and implement an effective monitoring and management system to ensure that all safety measures are strictly followed.

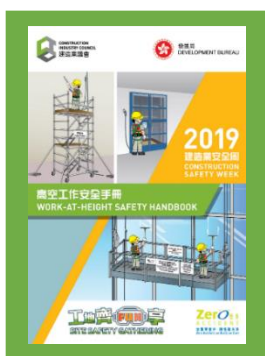


SAFETY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

What if all stakeholders can act together and take one step further to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, can similar accident be avoided?

- In the design stage, designers and engineers should consider the working environment of the operation zone and the risks nearby prior to the commencement of works, and select a suitable working platform and construction methods. Besides, whenever possible, avoid overlapping high-risk activities in the same working area.
- During the construction stage, the work team must ensure that the MEWP is only operated by an authorised person who has adequately trained and is competent by reasons of substantial training and practical experience; in addition, make sure that the MEWP is regularly inspected, tested, and properly maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to ensure that it is in safe working condition at all times.
- The work team could constantly identify the changes in the process or the environment through dynamic risk assessment and apply control measures to eliminate the hazard.
- When identifying any changes in the construction process, workers should report it to their supervisors and take action against it immediately.

Reference information for sharing



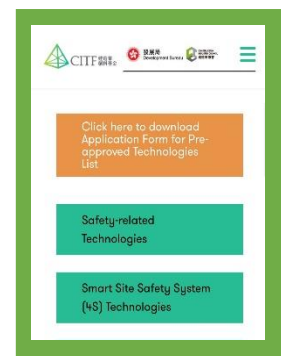
Work-at-Height Safety Handbook



Safety Poster - Pay Attention to Surrounding Obstacles Before Moving the Power-operated Elevating Work Platform (PEWP)!



Construction Innovation and Technology Fund (CITF) Webpage – About CITF



Construction Innovation and Technology Fund (CITF) Webpage – Smart Site Safety System (4S)



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