

Mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs)

About 5 minutes · Read it out, then ask the questions at the end.

Why it matters. MEWPs such as scissor lifts and boom lifts make work at height safer, but only in trained hands. Overturning, falls from the basket and trapping against structures can all kill.

The hazards

- Operator trapped between the basket and a beam or ceiling
- Overturning on soft ground, slopes or kerbs
- Falling or being thrown from the basket
- Contact with overhead power lines
- Collision with people or vehicles at ground level

Stay safe

- Only trained and authorised people may operate a MEWP
- Do pre-use checks every shift, including controls and emergency lowering
- Check the ground is firm and level and look out for holes and soft spots
- On boom-type MEWPs wear a harness with a short restraint lanyard attached to the anchor point in the basket
- Keep everything inside the basket and never climb on the guardrails
- Watch overhead for beams, ceilings and power lines when moving
- Make sure someone on the ground knows the emergency lowering procedure
- Fence or cone off the area below

Ask the team

1. Who on site knows how to lower the MEWP in an emergency?
2. What do you check before you move the platform up?
3. Why do we use a restraint lanyard on a boom lift?

The law and guidance

Work at Height Regulations 2005, PUWER 1998 and LOLER 1998.

General guidance to help you give a toolbox talk. It doesn't replace your site's risk assessments, method statements, permits or training. Check it against your own site rules before you give it.

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Site: _____ Date: _____

Given by: _____ Company: _____

By signing, I confirm I attended this toolbox talk and understood it.

Name (print)	Company	Signature	Time

Keep this record with your site's training and briefing records.