

Safety and health alert

06/07 Elevated work platform operator killed

Incident

An employee was fatally injured on a construction site when a JLG800AJ elevated work platform he was working from collapsed due to mechanical failure of the slew assembly. He had been operating in good weather conditions and on level ground. The operator had been positioned in the basket of the elevated work and had been attempting to elevate to a height of 6 metres to tightened bolts on a structure when the turntable of the elevated work platform became detached from its base falling to the ground.

The operator had completed competency based training in the safe use of the elevated work platform.

The elevated work platform was supplied by a hire company to the construction site through a plant hire arrangement.

Factors to consider

- The operator had completed competency based training in the safe use of the elevated work platform.
- The elevated working platform collapsed due to mechanical failure of the slew assembly.
- The elevated work platform was supplied to the construction site through a plant hire arrangement.

Recommendations

1. Ensure that elevated work platforms have all tests and inspections necessary to reduce the risk of injury to operators of the plant.
2. Ensure that all inspection, repair, maintenance and alteration to elevated work platforms are carried out in accordance with designer or manufacturers recommendations.
3. In addition to normal maintenance and inspections of JLG 800AJ elevated work platforms it is strongly recommended that the slewing assembly of the plant, in particular its slewing bolts, be inspected by a competent person. Only those units passed by a competent person should be returned to service.

Further information

- Powered Mobile Plant making It safe, A guide for employers, self employed persons and employees, Commission for Occupational Safety & Health.

Further information can be obtained from WorkSafe's internet site www.worksafe.wa.gov.au or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email safety@docep.wa.gov.au

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