

Safety and health alert

16/94 (Revised) Accident involving a hunter scissor lift

Incident

Two labourers were using a Scissor Lift to carry two sheets of form ply measuring 2400mm x 1200mm x 18mm up to a Mobile Scaffold Platform. The Scissor Lift was at a height of 5.8 metres when it fell over seriously injuring the two occupants.

Factors

The cause was not clearly established but the accident was most likely brought about by one wheel of the scissor lift at some stage being over a 25mm recess which also contained a styrene blockout. As workers moved the load on the platform the wheel appears to have sunk sufficiently to cause the unit to topple.

Recommendations

1. Employers and employees who use these units must continually survey the area for hazards.
2. If a work area has recesses or penetrations in the slab area and elevating work platforms are to be used in the vicinity, these hazards should be barricaded off. Also, in these circumstances the use of a unit with pothole protectors or stabilisers should be considered.
3. Suppliers of elevating work platforms must ensure that correct and adequate information on the operation of the units is provided.
4. Owners must ensure that operating instructions are available to operators.
5. Employers must ensure that operators of these units are adequately trained and follow the operating instructions

Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe 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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