



Safety alert 5/2011

Use of safety harnesses on elevating work platforms

The purpose of this safety alert is to highlight the importance of safety requirements relating to boom type elevating work platforms and the wearing of safety harnesses.

Background

Construction, Regional and Primary Industry inspectors have identified that safety harnesses are sometimes not worn when workers are working from boom type elevating work platforms. Harnesses help prevent people from sustaining serious injuries when working at heights and play an integral role in emergency rescue.

Contributing factors

- Safety harness not provided.
- Where safety harnesses are provided people do not wear the safety harness.

Action required

1. Consultation and planning of the proposed work must occur with all people involved in the work.
2. Hazard identification must be incorporated into a work plan and/or a safe work method statement that covers all potential risks associated with work at heights.
3. Workers operating elevating work platforms must be trained and instructed in the safe operating procedures for the particular brand and type. The training provided should include the safe use of the fall-arrest equipment and emergency rescue.
4. Workers operating boom type elevating work platforms must wear an attached safety harness and lanyard incorporating a shock absorber as a precaution against mechanical failure of the basket.
5. People operating elevating work platforms where the boom length is 11 metres or more must have appropriate high risk work licences.

Further information

- Elevating work platform manufacturer's instructions/operators manual.
- *Australian Standard 2550.10 - 2006 Safe use of mobile elevating work platforms.*
- Western Australian Commission for Occupational Safety and Health - Code of practice - *Prevention of falls at Workplaces.*
- *Powered mobile plant - making it safe. A guide for employers, self employed people and employees.*
- Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996.

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

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