



OPERATING MEWPS ALONGSIDE ROADS TOOLBOX TALK

WHAT IS THE RISK?

Operating MEWPs alongside roads can cause death or serious injury to operators or members of the public if the tasks are not adequately planned and machinery not positioned correctly.

Due to the close working environment and proximity with other equipment, passing vehicles, buildings and pedestrians, the risk of a MEWP being impacted is significantly increased.

HOW TO REDUCE THE RISK?

When planning ahead:

- Planning the job properly is critical to ensuring a safe work environment. This should be carried out before any task is carried out.
- Ensure that you have a site risk assessment in place and are following safe work procedures to protect yourself and those around you.
- Identify any foreseeable changes in site conditions through the task (for example rush-hour, construction changes, ditch digging).
- Where possible set up a segregation zone around your MEWP to operate safely.
- Always ensure you are aware of and comply with local regulations associated with working on or near roads.
- The management of pedestrians will need to include designated walkways and signage.
- Use a Spotter or ground personnel to identify hazards and use a communication system between the operator and the Spotter before performing the task.
- Designate a safe area for the loading and unloading of machines. This should be carried out in a safe, well-lit area away from a live site, passing traffic or pedestrians.
- If you are working at night, or where there is potential for poor visibility, make sure there is adequate lighting so you can see, and be seen.

WHO NEEDS TO KNOW?

This Toolbox talk applies to all individuals involved with MEWPs on a site:

- Operator
- Spotter
- Supervisor/site manager/traffic management
- MEWP user (who has control of the use of the MEWP on site)
- Nominated ground rescue person

When operating:

- Ensure you are trained and familiarised with the MEWP's controls, safety systems and operating characteristics (e.g., tail swing of counterweight and configuration of articulated boom sections)
- Ensure all parts of the MEWP always stay inside the designated segregation zone.
- Maintain a clear view of the area while operating.
- When operating articulated booms try to keep the lower boom or articulating knuckle raised, as this minimises the risk of collision with other equipment.
- Be aware of the MEWP's movements and the location of other hazards in the area. This includes traffic, pedestrians, roads, and other plant.

REMEMBER

- Follow your risk assessment and safe work procedures.
- Maintain clear communications with the Spotter and follow directions and warnings when instructed.
- Be aware of your environment; look up, down and around.
- Be aware of the MEWP rescue plan before entering the platform. Know who the nominated ground rescue person is.

USEFUL REFERENCES

- Safe Use Of MEWPs In Public Areas (available at www.ipaf.org/resources)
- Andy Access posters 'Use a Spotter' and 'Be Street Smart' (available at www.ipaf.org/andyaccess)
- IPAF Operators Safety Guide (available on the ePAL app www.ipaf.org/ePAL)