

SAFE WORK PRACTICE – MOBILE ELEVATED WORK PLATFORMS (MEWPs)

PURPOSE

To establish a standardized procedure for the safe operation of Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs), ensuring the protection of operators, ground personnel, and property.

PREREQUISITES

- Training: Valid certification for the specific class of MEWP (e.g., Scissor Lift vs. Boom Lift) and Fall Protection training.
- PPE: CSA-approved hard hat, safety boots, high-visibility vest, and a full-body harness with a shock-absorbing lanyard or SRD.
- Site Assessment: A completed Field Level Hazard Assessment or Site Specific Risk Assessment (FLHA/SSHA) for the specific work area.
- Manuals: The manufacturer’s operating manual must be physically located in the weatherproof container on the unit.

POTENTIAL HAZARD	PRECAUTION
Tip-over / Stability	Always operate on firm, level ground. Never exceed the rated lift capacity or wind speed limits.
Falls from Height	Maintain 100% tie-off to designated anchor points. Never climb on guardrails.
Electrocution	Maintain minimum approach distances from overhead power lines (usually 7 meters unless verified).
Crushing / Entrapment	Look in the direction of travel. Use a spotter in tight spaces. Check overhead clearance.
Mechanical Failure	Complete the Daily Inspection Checklist before every shift. Tag out any faulty equipment.

DIRECTIVES

- Perform a function test of all controls (ground and platform) before ascending.
- Ensure all gate latches and safety chains are closed and secured.
- Maintain three points of contact when entering or exiting the platform.
- Keep the floor of the platform clear of debris and tripping hazards.
- Use outriggers or stabilizers according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Do not use the MEWP as a crane or to push/pull other objects.
- Do not exit the platform while it is in an elevated position unless permitted by a specific engineered procedure.
- Do not override safety limit switches or disable the tilt alarm.
- Do not operate in wind speeds exceeding the manufacturer’s rating (typically 45 km/h).
- All operations must comply with [Alberta OHS Code, Part 23: Elevating Platforms and Aerial Devices](#). Specifically, Section 347 (Structural Integrity), Section 348 (Operator Training), and Section 350 (Fall Protection).

