



## Work Safety Alert Trapped between Elevating Work Platform and Ceiling

1. **Date of Accident:** November 2024

2. **Place of Accident:** A building site

3. **Summary:**

While carrying out ceiling painting work using an elevating work platform (“EWP”), a worker was trapped between the guard-rail of the EWP’s platform and a concrete beam on the ceiling. He was certified dead in hospital later on the same day.

4. **Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Employers:**

To prevent any workers from being trapped while working on an EWP, contractors/ employers should provide and maintain the following precautionary measures:

- fitting an appropriate secondary guarding device such as physical barriers, pressure sensing devices or proximity sensing devices to reduce the risk of trapping;
- ensuring that every control of the EWP should be of the "deadman" type so that it could automatically return to neutral or off position when released, and the controls should be positioned or protected against accidental activation;
- ensuring that the function of each control device should be clearly indicated and marked on or beside the device;
- ensuring that EWP is only operated by a trained and competent worker;
- ensuring that a clearly marked overriding lowering control should be fitted to enable a worker at the ground level to lower the EWP’s platform in an emergency;



- providing adequate procedures to deal with emergency situations;
- setting up and implementing a safe system of work with an effective monitoring and control system for the use of EWP; and
- providing all workers involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and the relevant safety measures.

**5. Reference<sup>1</sup>:**

- [Guidance Notes on Safe Use of Power-operated Elevating Work Platforms](#)
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)

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**DISCLAIMER**

This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.

Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/ adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.

<sup>1</sup> Click to view documents