

# SAFETY ALERT

## SA-363: Spider Lift - Outrigger Levelling

### Background

Whilst completing works on a multi-level building using a spider lift (EWP), a WorkSafe inspector visited the workplace and observed.



- Outriggers were placed on wooden boards, which did not adequately support arm 4.
- They observed some removal of grass, which potentially indicates that the arm was slipping.
- Arm 3 was set up next to an underground utility pit, which may have resulted in collapse due to pressure from the outrigger.

### Safety Issues

- Spider lift operating on unstable grounds with a high risk of overturning.
- Wooden cribbing is not suitable for making solid contact with the outrigger footplate.
- Outrigger stabilisation plates placed in the vicinity of underground services increases the risk of collapse and the EWP overturning.



### RECOMMENDED WAYS TO CONTROL RISK

- All operators must be appropriately trained for the use of the EWP. Where the reach is greater than 11 metres, the operator **must** have a high-risk EWP licence.
- SWMS & SOP's to be in place, understood and signed
- Where ground conditions are uncertain, underground scanning **must** be undertaken.

#### Outrigger Deployment

- All outriggers must be:
  - Fully deployed.
  - In firm contact with the ground.
  - Used to achieve machine levelling before boom elevation.
  - The boom must not be raised unless the machine is level and stable on all outriggers.

#### Cribbing / Load Spreading

- Suitable cribbing must be installed under each outrigger where:
  - Ground is soft, uneven, sloped or unsealed
  - Load-bearing capacity is unknown
- Cribbing **must**:
  - Be of adequate size to spread the load
  - Be in good condition (no splits, rot or defects)
  - Be placed on stable, level ground
- Multiple small pads are not an acceptable substitute for proper load-rated cribbing.
  - Where pads do not cover the full outrigger foot, fasten together with suitable thickness plywood, metal plates, etc.

#### Operational Restrictions

- Do not adjust or stow outriggers while the boom is raised
- Do not exceed manufacturer limits for:
  - Slope
  - Outreach
  - Platform load
- Maintain exclusion zones and use a competent spotter where required.
- If You Are Unsure – **STOP & Re-Assess** with your supervisor

For more information, contact [safety@programmed.com.au](mailto:safety@programmed.com.au)

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**Report all incidents and near misses**

Please display on Safety Noticeboards and raise this matter at the next Toolbox Talk or Safety Meeting.