

SAFETY ALERT

374 – Connect Every Job, Every Time – Harnesses Save Lives!

Background

During two recent SafeWork NSW site visits in different towns, workers operating a boom lift (EWP) were found working without their harnesses attached to the anchor point.

In both cases it was identified that the person operating the boom was also not qualified to do so.

The work was stopped immediately by the inspector.



- If it is necessary to change anchor points in the basket while elevated, then a twin tail lanyard must be used to maintain continuous connection to the anchor point.



Safety Issues

- While no injuries occurred, this high-risk breach exposed workers to a serious potentially fatal fall from height.
- In both cases a boom type EWP was the most suitable method of access to the workface.
- Operators of a boom type EWP capable of reaching more than 11 metres must always hold the appropriate licence as this will have given them the knowledge and skills to safely operate an EWP.
- An unlicensed operator may only operate a boom type EWP under direct supervision of a licensed operator if they are enrolled into and have paid for the EWP training course with an approved RTO.
- When a boom type EWP is elevated, being elevated or travelling, all persons in the EWP must be wearing a correctly fitted harness attached to the correct anchor point boom type EWP.
- You must never disconnect your harness while the EWP is elevated unless it has been determined by risk assessed and a specific SWMS for the task has been developed outlining details.

RECOMMENDED WAYS TO CONTROL RISK

- Never allow familiarity with a task to lead to complacency.- always remain vigilant when working at heights.
- Review and follow the applicable site/task-specific SWMS SOP and site requirements before commencing work.
- Inspect the EWP prior to starting work.
- Do not perform tasks if you are not appropriately licensed, trained and authorised. Stop work and seek assistance if you are unsure, not competent or not authorised to perform the task.
- Inspect and wear all PPE specified in the SOP - it is not optional.
- Double check your work partner to ensure that they are always hooked up correctly.
- Challenge unsafe behaviours and intervene immediately if a worker is not connected or not following required controls.

For more information contact: 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.