MEWP Emergency Rescue Plan

sustainable thriving achieving
East Dunbartonshire Council
www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk

The use of MEWPs are a potentially dangerous operation. Under normal circumstances the backup systems built in to the machine will allow the operator to bring the platform safely down to floor level under controlled conditions.

EDC only use MEWPs which are equipped with the following three types of control:

a) Operator Controls (In the basket)
b) Ground Controls (Usually positioned on the side of the machine at ground level, to be used if the basket controls fail or cannot be used)
c) Emergency Auxiliary Controls (Under the site panels of the machine at ground level, only to be used if the basket and ground controls fail)

In the case of an emergency, see below rescue plans for differing situations:

Failure of upper control functions while elevated.	Where the normal upper control functions fail, the operator will use the upper auxiliary controls to lower the platform safely
Failure of the operator to be able to operate the MEWP functions while elevated due to one of the following reasons: **A.** Operator incapacitated **B.** Auxiliary functions fail to operate from upper control station **C.** Person thrown from the basket but is conscious	Where the operator is incapable of lowering the raised platform using the upper controls, Emergency services must be contacted on **999** and an appointed person familiarised in the use of the 'ground' controls will lower the platform safely using the normal ground controls If the operative is suspended by their work restraint lanyard, the emergency services must be contacted immediately on **999**
Failure of normal ground controls	Where the normal ground controls fail, an appointed person familiarised in the use of the 'ground' controls will use the ground auxiliary controls to safely lower the platform
Failure of **ALL** normal and auxiliary lowering functions	Where all normal and auxiliary functions have failed, a competent and authorised service engineer should be contacted

Name:	
Contact details:	

Names of nominated ground person(s) on site, familiarised and authorised to lower the work platform in the event of an emergency or a machine malfunction

Name	Signature

This rescue plan should be brought to the notice of those exposed to the risk of working at height and those supervising and managing the same work at height.

MEWP Emergency Rescue Plan

1. Consideration for mid-air rescue

A mid-air, platform to platform rescue should only be considered in exceptional circumstances and only after:

a) All normal and auxiliary lowering procedures have been attempted and these are unable to lower the platform.

b) Management have contacted the competent and authorised service engineer listed in the rescue plan, to report failure of normal and auxiliary lowering systems and request engineering assistance.

c) Emergency services are unlikely to be able to attend and the operative is at risk of immediate life changing injury or fatality.

If after inspection by the competent engineering assistance, it is not possible to affect a timely repair to allow the machine to be brought to the ground safely, senior management should be contacted for permission to carry out mid-air rescue.

Or

Where the competent engineering assistance is not readily available and an immediate risk exists to the health and safety of any of the occupants from remaining in the elevated basket until an engineer can attend, then senior management should be contacted for permission to carry out mid-air rescue.

2. Code of practice for mid-air rescue

A. Rescue using another MEWP should only be performed once a site-specific risk assessment has been carried out and a specific plan has been documented and approved by senior management.

B. The rescue machine must be positioned so as to enable the rescue procedure to be carried out without compromising the safety of any personnel involved in the rescue procedure.

C. The platforms of both machines must be adjacent to each other with a minimal gap between them, unless exceptional circumstances mean this is not possible. (Where this is not possible, the circumstances shall be recorded onto the risk assessment form.)

D. Where reasonably practicable, precautions should be taken to prevent inadvertent movement of both platforms during the transfer.

E. The person being rescued (transferred from basket to basket) should wear a full body harness with an adjustable lanyard – the lanyard should be attached to the anchor point on the rescue machine before transfer takes place.

F. Care must be taken not to overload the rescue machine during transfer. This may mean making more than one journey to complete the rescue.

Further guidance on mid-air rescue can be found in ISO 18893:2014 - 6.1.2.8.