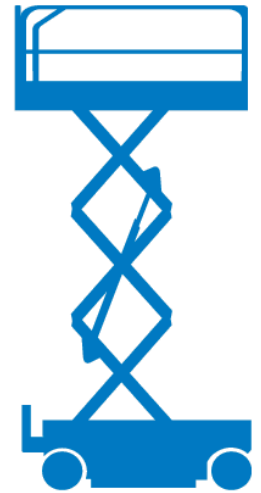


Please report all accidents and near misses. Things happen and it is important to learn from others. Environmental Health and Safety and your colleagues appreciate hearing about incidents, reviewing their causes and learning from them.

MOBILE ELEVATING WORK PLATFORMS (MEWPs)

What Happened?

In October 2019, two contractors were using a scissor lift for exterior work as part of a construction project. At the time of the incident, the lift was on an irregular and sloped surface. Wind gusts at the time were high. As they started to lower the lift, it tipped and fell. One worker reportedly suffered a broken leg, cracked knee cap and broke ribs while the other suffered a torn bicep.



What Went Right?

- Workers near the base of scissor lift moved quickly out of the path of the falling lift.
- Activity at the site was halted immediately.
- Emergency services were summoned for prompt medical attention.
- All personnel were actively involved in the follow-up investigation with a goal of identifying the underlying cause and prevention measures.

What Corrective Actions Have Been Taken?

The use of the scissor lift on the irregular surface was stopped and alternatives such as scaffolding and scissor lifts with leveling outriggers were considered.

How Can Incidents Like This Be Prevented?

- Ensure operators of MEWPs are trained on how to perform a workplace risk assessment, read the equipment operator's manual, inspect the equipment and are familiar with the equipment.
- Develop a site and equipment specific rescue plan and ensure all affected/involved personnel are trained.
- Provide occupants with instructions to have a basic level of knowledge to work safely on the MEWP.
- Ensure MEWPs are inspected by the operator prior to use and as required by a qualified person (frequently and annually).
- Know the limitations of the MEWP prior to use. Generally, scissor lifts are designed to operate on a surface of less than 1.5 degrees tilt (parallel to the axles) and in wind speeds of less than 28 miles per hour. The lift platforms also have weight and occupant capacities.
- Actively monitor wind speed when using MEWPs outdoors.