



SAFETY ALERT

Unplanned movement of elevating work platform

INCIDENT

An elevated work platform (EWP) operator and his assistant were injured and trapped in an elevating work platform basket when the machine suddenly moved forward causing the basket to crash into the bucket of a P&H 4100 shovel.

CIRCUMSTANCES

The EWP operator and his assistant were part of a team that were changing hoist ropes on the bucket. They were in the process of fitting new hoist ropes to the equaliser on the bucket.

The operator, whilst assisting to hold the ropes had to manoeuvre the EWP. This process required him to put his foot on the “dead man” and turn 180 degrees to actuate the controls, as the control panel was directly behind him.

The operator put his foot on the “dead man” and was reaching for the boom-up control when the EWP propelled forward into the bucket.



The elevating work platform after being propelled into the bucket of the P&H 4100

INVESTIGATION

Investigations are continuing into the functional integrity of all the EWP systems.

Issues of concern are:

- The safety locking mechanism of the forward / reverse control lever jams in the unlocked position.
- The safety locking mechanism of the swing control lever jams in the unlocked position.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ensure all pieces of hired equipment have a thorough mechanical and electrical inspection prior to work, to assess fitness for work.
- Ensure thorough pre-work inspections are carried out by competent people.
- Ensure that hired equipment is maintained in accordance with:
 - The original equipment manufacturer's maintenance manual.
 - Relevant Australian Standards – AS 1418.10 and AS 2550.10
 - Regard to its duty and work environment.
- Ensure that the hirer has thorough and detailed maintenance records and defect management systems for the equipment.
- Ensure the machine is set up in accordance with the operator's manual.
- Ensure operators are competent with the various types of EWP's they are required to operate.
- Ensure risk assessments are carried out thoroughly and emergency rescue procedures are in place.

NOTE:

Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this Safety Alert, and are informed of its content and recommendations.

Signed



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