

MEWP Safety Developments (2018)

MEWP's have been one of the most welcome addition to construction sites over recent years, they have addressed working at height safety issues and have solved many access problems. As good and as versatile as they are they do come with their own hazards. The main hazards attributed to the use of MEWP's have been identified as –

- Collision
- Entrapment
- Overturning
- Operator Falls

Technological advancements over recent years have addressed these hazards making MEWP's safer than ever. MEWP's are now all fitted with "Dead man's" controls which will halt any movements once the Operators hands leave the controls or their foot leaves the pedals.

MEWP's are now fitted with designated harness anchor points which will still provide good all round access but will withstand shock loading in the event of a fall.



Anti Crush Cages

Anti-crush cages are a physical barrier between user and trapping point. They are an add-on to the existing cages. The downside of these is they can restrict access to harder to reach spots.



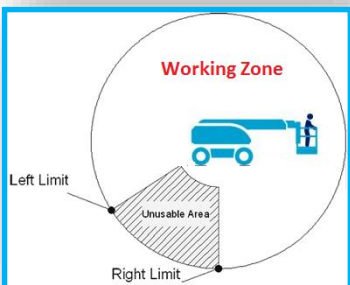
Anti Crush Bars

Anti-crush bars prevent the operator's hands and arms from becoming trapped, the bars acts as an E-stop should the Operator become trapped. The downside of these is they do not offer protection against hazards beyond the cage.



Audible Sensors

Much the same as car proximity sensors the sensors will warn, in an increasing rate, of approaching hazards. Use of hearing protection may hinder the warnings therefore a pragmatic approach to PPE based on risk assessment should be adopted.



Slew & Zone Restrictors

Machines with this facility can be setup to give audible warnings when approaching restricted zones. If further insurance is required then they can also be set to motion cut out once a zone has been breached and alarms raised.

Perhaps the most important and effective development in MEWP safety is the attitude and approach to training. Most Employers and main Contractors now recognise that IPAF training is a must for Operatives and is more often than not a pre-requisite prior to the use of MEWP's on site.

For Further Information Steve Nolan (Peers) – Tel 01204 558 500