

## IPAF Guidance on Rescue Plan

### 1. Purpose

Under normal circumstances, back-up systems built into the machine will allow the operator to bring the platform of the machine to ground level under controlled conditions. It is extremely unusual for these systems to fail.

To ensure that a safe method of rescue is available when all other back-up systems for returning personnel to ground level have failed, the following procedures can be used.

#### 2. Standard Operating Procedure

Ensure that all normal emergency lowering procedures have been activated.

Contact the site manager to report failure of back-up emergency lowering systems and request engineering back-up.

If, after inspection by the engineer, it is not possible to effect a repair to allow the machine to be brought to the ground, the site manager must be contacted for permission to carry out basket to basket rescue.

#### 3. Code of Practice for Mid Air Rescue

- **A.** The details of the risk assessment carried out shall be recorded onto the site-specific risk assessment form.
- **B.** The rescue machine must be positioned so as to enable the rescue procedure to be carried out without compromising the safety of personnel involved in the rescue.
- **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.** A double lanyard must be attached to the person being rescued and the anchor points on both machines before the rescue takes place.
- **E.** Care must be taken not to overload the rescue machine. This may mean making more than one journey to complete the rescue.
- **F.** Where alternative emergency systems are not possible, consideration should be given for the use of an emergency evacuation system, examples of which are: control descent systems, crane basket rescue (this is not exhaustive).

Further guidance can be found in BS8460, section 6.6.



# Example emergency rescue plan for work at height from a Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP)

This rescue plan has been compiled in order to comply with current legislation (Work at Height Regulations 2005) for people who work at height. It is to 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.

Emergency Situation	Proposed Action
Failure of upper control functions while elevated	Where the normal upper control functions fail, the operator will use the auxiliary controls from the platform to lower the boom safely to the ground.
Failure of the operator to be able to operate the MEWP functions while elevated due to the following reasons:  A. Operator incapacitated B. Auxiliary functions fail to operate from upper control station.	Where the operator is incapable of lowering the MEWP using the upper controls, an appointed person familiarised in the use of the lower 'ground' controls will lower the platform safely to the ground using the lower ground controls.
Failure of lower ground controls	Where the lower ground controls fail to allow the boom to be lowered safely to the ground, the appointed person will use the auxiliary ground controls to lower the boom safely to the ground.
Failure of ALL normal and auxiliary lowering functions	Where all normal and auxiliary functions have failed, the appointed person on the ground should refer to BS8460 section 6.6 Rescue from height.

Machine Type and Location:-		

DATE: -	Persons made aware of rescue plan on site	
NAME (prin	nt)	Signature