

TWO MOBILE ELEVATING WORK PLATFORM RELATED ACCIDENTS: ONE DEAD, ONE INJURED

On 14 January 2026, a worker while operating a Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) for plastering work at a construction site in Kai Tak, was trapped between the top of a door frame and the guardrail of the work platform. He was certified dead later in hospital. On 5 January 2026, a MEWP related accident also happened at a construction site in Sha Tin, resulting in an injury to a worker. The Construction Industry Council (CIC) would like to deliver this safety message for your attention. It would be appreciated if you could distribute the message below to your fellow members, relevant personnel or other industry stakeholders where appropriate. Thank you very much.

Common Accidents

1. The operator is being trapped between the MEWP and other fixed objects while the MEWP is using.
2. Failure to properly design the site layout to segregate the areas where the MEWPs may operate.
3. Failure to provide necessary safety information, instructions, training and supervision to the workers concerned.
4. Failure to conduct dynamic risk assessments and take appropriate safety measures in response to changes in the environment and procedures.



Critical Control Measures

1. Select a MEWP with due **consideration to the reach limitation of the MEWP and its required clearance working space** upon the specific model of the MEWP being used.
2. Plan and coordinate the works properly, to **prevent incompatible work activities** being carried out inside the operation zone of MEWP at the same time.
3. A MEWP should **only be operated by persons who have received training** for that specific model of MEWP and are competent to operate the machine.
4. At the beginning of each shift, **dynamic risk assessments should be conducted** to evaluate the workplace conditions, including mobile plant operations nearby, traffic conditions, openings, steep slopes and overhead obstacles.
5. **Physical and functional checks for the MEWP** to ensure that the MEWP is in safe working condition.
6. Workers working on the MEWP must **wear a suitable safety harness with its lanyard** anchored to a specified anchorage point of the MEWP.
7. Ensure **adequate lighting** is provided while operating the MEWP.
8. Before and while moving the MEWP, make sure there are **no surrounding obstacles and no person, plants and vehicles are nearby**.
9. **Cordon off and control the operation zone of MEWP properly** and display suitable warning signs in a prominent location.
10. **Equip the MEWPs with an effective Secondary Guarding Device** such as physical barriers or smart devices.
 - **Physical Barriers:** To be **fitted around the basket of MEWP with adequate strength** to eliminate the entrapment hazards. It shall be able to restrict further movement of MEWP once hits any obstacles in the vicinity of MEWP.
 - **Smart Devices:** To **fit one or more than one proximity sensor(s)** at MEWP for detecting any obstacles around MEWP and overhead. A visual and/or audio warning signal shall be issued to alert the workers on MEWP if the distance between the workers and any obstacles around MEWP or overhead is less than 500mm or other specified distances.
11. **Supervise, co-ordinate and monitor** the operation of mobile plants in fatal zones, and implement the procedures as stated in the logistics plans and the safe working procedures.



CONSTRUCTION
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SAFETY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE HONG KONG CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

What if all stakeholders can act together and take one step further to fulfill their roles and responsibilities, can similar accidents be avoided?

- In the design stage, designers and engineers should consider adopting design for safety methods to eliminate or reduce the movements of mobile plants at construction site, and carry out design of site layout properly including segregating MEWP operation zones and fatal zones etc.
- During the construction stage, the work team must ensure that the MEWP is only operated by an authorised person who has adequately trained and is competent by reasons of substantial training and practical experience; in addition, make sure that the MEWP is regularly inspected, tested, and properly maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to ensure that it is in safe working condition at all times.
- The work team could constantly identify the changes in the process or the environment through dynamic risk assessment and apply control measures to eliminate the hazard.
- Workers should follow to the developed safe working procedures, in case identifying any changes in the construction process, report it to their supervisors and take action against it immediately.

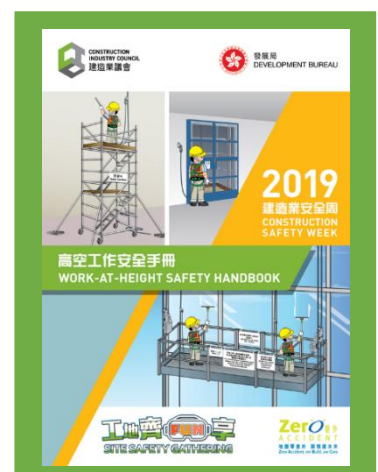
Reference Information



Reference Material on
Safety Roles and Responsibilities
of Key Stakeholders in the
Hong Kong Construction Industry



Reference Material on
Fatal Zone Management



Work-at-height Safety
Handbook



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