

North Leicestershire and Rutland
HM Coroner's Office
Leicestershire County Council
County Hall
Glenfield
Leics
LE3 8RAS

7th August 2024

RE: Jason Vaughan HOLLAND 0192-2023

Dear Miss F Butler

I am writing in response to your recent communication regarding the unfortunate fatality of Jason Vaughan Holland which I read with great sadness.

I have reviewed the information you provided and appreciate the thoroughness of your investigation.

I can confirm that our MEWP Basic Training course includes sessions and content on the Emergency Escape and Rescue Plans. I have supplied excerpts below from the trainer's guide for reference. Please also find attached a copy of our instructor's guide for your review.

Introduction (page 5)

Prior to carrying out a training course, an appropriate risk assessment should be completed by a competent person, in accordance with the Work at Height Regulations 2005. The risk assessment should be accompanied by a suitable lifting plan and appropriate emergency and rescue procedures.

Session 2 – Regulations (page 47 - 53)

By the end of this session, candidates will be able to:

- Recall and discuss safety legislation that applies to the operation and use of a Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP)
- Discuss how relevant legislation relates to employer and employee duties under the Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act 1974.

Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER)

- Regulation 5 – measures are in place to prevent the risk of being crushed, trapped, struck or falling from the platform and necessary provisions for rescue.

Working at Height Regulations 2005 (WAHR)

- A rescue plan, which should not rely on the emergency services, but instead may require a person on the ground capable of lowering the elevated platform.

Session 5 – Hazards Associated with Siting MEWPs (page 103)

By the end of this sessions, candidates will be able to:

- Identify and discuss potential hazards that could be encountered during the siting of a Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP).
- Discuss steps that can be taken to minimise the risks associated with siting a MEWP.

Discuss with the candidates the importance of having a rescue plan in place and the importance of communicating it to all concerned. The content of a rescue plan should include:

- Location of the ground control key - this should ideally be located in the base unit for ease of access or somewhere else at ground level where it can be quickly retrieved.
- Appointment of the ground rescue person – this should be someone who knows the rescue plan and who is trained and authorised to operate the machine, including the emergency rescue controls. They should always be readily available in the event of an emergency.
- How the alarm can be raised – this needs careful consideration, especially where the operator is working alone and may not be able to be seen from the ground.
- How the rescue should be actioned and by whom – this would depend on the complexity of the operation and the risk of effecting a ground control rescue compared to the risk of the operator, possibly in a state of panic, trying to rescue themselves.

Where possible the following order of priority should be followed:

1. Let the operator attempt to rescue themselves by retracing their steps in reverse to attempt to resolve the issue. In the event of the MEWP being snagged or caught on an object, they should not attempt to free themselves.

2. Only allow trained and authorised ground rescue staff to operate the ground controls to effect a rescue. This should only be carried out if visibility and understanding of the situation on the platform is apparent.

3. Other methods of emergency rescue are possible/available. However, these should all be thoroughly risk assessed and should only be conducted in conjunction with the manufacturer's instructions, rescue plans or under the guidance/intervention of the emergency services and should also be in accordance with BS8460:2017.

Session 6.3a – Controls and Instruments (page 106 - 107)

By the end of this session, candidates will be able to:

- Identify and demonstrate their knowledge of the Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) ground controls including emergency lowering controls
- Explain and demonstrate the correct mounting/dismounting of a MEWP
- Identify and demonstrate their knowledge of the MEWP platform controls
- Demonstrate the correct procedure for deploying the extending platform.

Emergency Lowering Procedure

Remind the candidates of the importance of rescue plan (covered in a previous session). Re-emphasise the importance rescue/escape plans when working with a raised platform.

Confirm with the candidates their understanding that the first step would be to rescue themselves, where possible. However, where the person on the platform is unable to do this, for example, if they are unconscious, then the controls can be switched from platform to ground using the key controls on the chassis. This will enable someone at ground level to then lower the platform accordingly, enabling the safe rescue of the person on the platform. Emphasise that this procedure should only be carried out by someone who has been trained in the rescue procedures and is familiar with the machine and its controls. Refer the candidates to the manufacturer's handbook where the location and function of the emergency lowering controls are explained.

Explain that if the machine loses power with someone trapped at height on the platform, an operator on the ground would use manual controls, normally found on the chassis adjacent to the ground controls, to manipulate the platform back to its parked position. These controls function without any power supply. Careful planning should be undertaken as to the safest and most efficient way of getting the platform down. Again, explain that this should only be carried out by

someone who has been trained in the rescue procedures and is familiar with the machine and its controls. Refer the candidates to the relevant section of the manufacturer's handbook for details.

Note: This procedure should only be carried out in either the event of an emergency or where the process has been planned and risk assessed accordingly.

Under close supervision, allow the candidates to demonstrate their ability to safely:

- Activate the isolation switch, insert the key and switch between the ground and platform controls
- Raise and lower the platform smoothly by using the ground controls, using good all-round observations
- Raise the platform to the maximum height and then lower the platform using the emergency release lever
- Isolate the machine and remove the key.

Optional Session 2 - Handover of a MEWP and Specific Training (page 203)


By the end of this session, candidates will be able to:

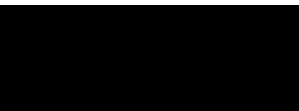
- Discuss the requirements of the handover process for a Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP)
- Identify the need for specific training.

The above emphasises the importance of incorporating the knowledge needed to implement escape routes when operating machinery in the workplace. Due to the complexity of each site and the tasks performed, we cannot specify a particular route to follow. It is the duty holder's responsibility to ensure that a thorough risk assessment is conducted for the tasks at hand and to select suitable escape routes. These routes should be communicated to every team member.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you require any further information or have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

 (Head of Technical Services)





RTITB