

Mobile Elevated Work Platform (MEWP) Emergency Rescue Plan

Use of MEWPs can be a safe and effective means of moving people, tools, and material to a working level on a jobsite. Proper training and planning are vital to operating a MEWP safely to minimize the potential risk for injury, death, or damage to the machine. It is important that all MEWP operators, occupants, and ground personnel are familiar with these procedures to provide rapid and safe response during emergency situations.

Emergency Scenario	Rescue Procedures
A. Platform controls are inoperable while elevated	Have trained and authorized personnel lower the platform using the primary ground controls.
B. Platform and ground controls are inoperable while elevated	Have trained and authorized personnel lower the platform using the emergency/auxiliary descent controls.
C. Platform, ground, and auxiliary controls are inoperable while elevated	Contact the equipment supplier to send a qualified person onsite to lower the platform and provide further guidance. If the occupants are in a life-threatening situation such as during a severe weather event, call 911 to dispatch first responders for a technical rescue.
D. Operator is unconscious on the platform while elevated	Contact 911. Have trained and authorized personnel lower the platform using the primary ground controls. If the ground controls are inoperable, lower the platform using the emergency/auxiliary descent controls.
E. Operator is thrown from the platform	Contact 911. If the operator is suspended by their harness and lanyard, it's crucial that they are returned to ground level ASAP. Have a qualified person conduct a site assessment to identify and eliminate potential safety hazards. Verify that the MEWP is stable and secure, then lower the platform using the primary ground controls. If the platform cannot be safely lowered due to a worksite obstruction or failure of controls, the procedure below will need to be attempted while waiting on first responders to arrive and start a technical rescue.

Under certain circumstances, the use of a secondary MEWP, ladder, or some other device may be needed to perform an emergency rescue if a machine has become non-responsive and/or the operator has been ejected from the platform. Performing this type of emergency procedure should only be used after a qualified person has thoroughly reviewed the worksite for hazards and verified the primary MEWP is stable and secure. In addition, the following items must also be considered:

- The rescue MEWP can be properly positioned without causing harm to rescue personnel
- The gap between both MEWP platforms is as minimal as possible
- Steps are taken to prevent unintended machine movement during transfer
- Proper harness and lanyards are worn by all personnel and attached to the correct anchor point(s) on the rescue MEWP
- The secondary MEWP is not overloaded at any point during the rescue
- Operators maintain compliance with all manufacturer recommendations