

## MEWP Rescue Plan

The use of MEWPs on site are a potentially dangerous operation. Under normal circumstances the backup systems built in to the machine will allow the operator to bring the platform safely down to floor level under controlled conditions.

SMD only use MEWPs which are equipped with the following three types of control:

- Operator Controls (In the basket)
- Ground Controls (Usually positioned on the side of the machine at ground level, to be used if the basket controls fail or cannot be used)
- Emergency Auxiliary Controls (Under the site panels of the machine at ground level, only to be used if the basket and ground controls fail)

In the case of an emergency, see below rescue plans for differing situations:

Situation Number	Emergency Situation	Rescue Plan
1	Failure of basket control functions while elevated	Where the normal upper control functions fail, a suitably trained operative will utilise the auxiliary controls from the platform to lower the boom back down to safety.
2	Failure of basket and ground controls	If both sets of controls fail to work, a suitably trained operative will return the person stranded back to ground level using the emergency auxiliary controls. Should the steel work impede lowering to the ground level, operatives should be lowered to the nearest safe working platform, i.e. installed decking. A footed ladder can be used to assist exit from the basket.
3	Failure of basket, ground and auxiliary controls	Should both of the back-up controls fail, the machine supplier should be contacted immediately requesting an engineer be sent to site to lower the basket. Every effort should be made to keep the operator calm.
4	Unconscious operative within the basket	If the operative is unconscious within the basket at height, the emergency services must be contacted immediately on 999 and the principal contractor informed. The basket should then be lowered in accordance with the rescue plans stipulated between situations 1, 2, or 3.
5	Person thrown from the basket but is conscious	If the operative is suspended by their work restraint lanyard, the emergency services must be contacted immediately on 999 and the principal contractor informed. Action must be taken quickly to get the suspended operative to the ground level as soon as possible.

		<p><b>Option A (Lower to the ground)</b> - Lower the basket using the ground controls providing it is safe to do so and there are no obstructions between the suspended operative and the ground.</p> <p><b>Option B (Mid-air rescue)</b> - If there is an obstruction between the suspended operative and the ground and Option A is not feasible, steps must be taken to support the weight of the suspended operative, to release pressure caused by the work restraint PPE.</p> <p>The procedure should be as follows:</p> <p><b>Step 1</b> - Instruct the suspended operative to raise their knees towards their chest if they can. This will assist to reduce the build up of toxins in their blood.</p> <p><b>Step 2</b> - Instruct the closest MEWP operator to manoeuvre their MEWP basket below the suspended operative so that they can approach the operative from below.</p> <p><b>Step 3</b> - The basket of the rescuing MEWP should be slowly elevated to the height of where the suspended operative is. Once in the basket, the operative's work restraint can be removed and the rescued operative must sit on the floor of the basket.</p> <p><b>Step 4</b> - Both individuals can be lowered to ground level and exit the basket.</p>
6	Person thrown from the basket and is unconscious	This is the worst case scenario. The emergency services must be contacted immediately on 999 and the principal contractor informed. Rescue to proceed as per situation 5.