

Mobile Elevated Work Platforms

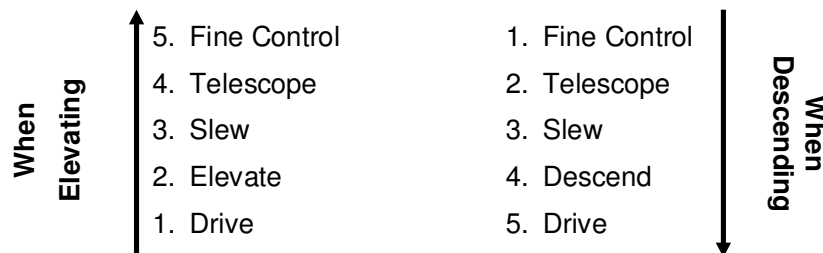
Mobile elevated work platforms is the description for “cherry picker” and “scissor lift” types of equipment.

This equipment provides safe work platform at height and is often used in place of scaffolding.

Safe if used properly – potentially fatal if not.

- Only trained and competent people can operate this equipment – this means you have to hold a current and valid CPCS or IPAF card.
- The platform has to be the correct one for the environment – ie: rough terrain if needed, electrically powered if inside.
- Platform has to be in good order – check thorough examination in last 6 months and weekly inspections – check it yourself before use.
- In recent years, too many operators have become trapped by obstructions, some with fatal consequences.
- Planning is key, familiarise yourself with the working area. Know the location of overhead obstructions in the area – steelwork, for example.
- Make sure you have a clear route on the ground and above – barrier the area around you to prevent access, by both people and other plant.
- The ground surface has to be suitable. No openings, weak surfaces such as temporary covers or lightweight manhole covers, no ruts.
- If working close to an overhead obstruction is unavoidable, it is strongly recommended that, where possible, only the fine-positioning controls of a boom-type MEWP should be used. Once the MEWP is close to the obstruction, the “coarser” drive, elevate and slew controls should be avoided.

Movements should always be slow, deliberate and planned. This is achieved by careful use of the MEWP’s proportional controls. The sequence of control use given below is recommended:-



- Know your MEWP. Some controls reverse when the basket is slewed beyond 90° to forward. Don't become disorientated, always check the direction of movement with reference to the direction arrows on the MEWP base and platform controls before activating the control.

- Follow the harness rules:-
 - Always in a cherry picker, work restraint not fall arrest (short lanyard, no shock absorber, attached to prevent you overreaching or climbing out)
 - Always in a scissor lift, work restraint not fall arrest – unless Interserve has accepted a risk assessment demonstrating harness is not required
 - Only exception to above is where you are operating over water, where a harness is not used - but a life jacket is

- Do you know the Emergency Plan? In an emergency, make sure someone has been trained to lower the platform safely from ground level. Do a practice run using the Emergency Descent Controls.

- Windy conditions may overturn the platform, especially if your materials are large and may act as a sail in the wind. Know the limitations and keep within them.

- **You must not climb out of an elevated platform.**

Questions:

- 1 What must you check before use?
- 2 What are the harness rules?
- 3 What may cause the platform to overturn?

Remember

**Incorrect use of the mobile elevated platform
Can lead to serious or fatal injuries**

Further Information:- CIP Manual, Section 7
International Powered Access Federation Operator Guide