

Risk Assessment for Working with MEWPs

Scope:

This document gives general guidance on use of MEWPS (including Cherry Pickers and Scissor Lifts) at BBC Studioworks. At the end of the document, you will find the generic risk assessment for use of this plant in the studio. It covers all reasonably expected use of this equipment. If your required activity is not covered in this document, please speak to the Resource Manager to ensure that a suitable risk assessment is undertaken. This plant will be typically used for project installation work, and production purposes using lighting and camera equipment. These tasks are subject to specific production-activity risk assessment, particularly when the activity involves crew or cast unfamiliar with working around or in the vicinity of MEWPs.

Guidance:

When hydraulic platforms are being used, you must ensure that prior to the work commencing, the contractor has provided an adequate risk assessment/lifting plan which does not conflict with your requirements. **MEWPs must only be used by competent operatives, suitably trained and qualified.**

Because hydraulic hoists present certain hazards that require very careful control it is essential that all factors are thoroughly assessed and addressed. The risk assessment must take into account all factors that may influence the safe use of a hydraulic hoist. This assessment should be based on the significant findings passed onto you by the hydraulic hoist contractor from their risk assessment; it should also deal with the interaction of the hoist with other activities, personnel, contractors etc.

To be suitable and sufficient, the contractor's risk assessment/lifting plan should meet your safety requirements and also be checked to ensure it identifies the following precautions:

- use only on level, firm ground
- jacks/stabilisers are deployed and secure (where applicable)
- the operator is trained and competent
- a safety harness will be worn at all times by those in the platform
- all equipment in the platform will be secured
- the safe operating parameters of the platform will be observed (e.g. max. loading, max. working radius, etc.)
- consideration of the proximity of overhead obstructions
- a documented pre-use visual inspection is required to be completed before the machine is operated

Security:

There must be satisfactory arrangements to prevent unauthorised access to the base of the platform, taking account of the nature of the event and the number of people likely to be present. In some instances, a security cordon and a marshal(s) would be required.

Emergencies

If anyone is trapped in the elevated cage because of equipment failure, where possible, an attempt should be made by the operator to lower the cage by bleeding down the hydraulics system. If no one can reach the ground using an escape system, contact the emergency services. A personal escape system (e.g. Davey Escape where fitted) should only be used as a last resort.

Under no circumstances should a second hoist be used to affect a rescue (except by the emergency services). Plant must only be used for its intended/manufactured purpose and not used as an alternative form of transport or for recreational use.

People that might be harmed:

Studioworks employees, contractors, public, artists

HAZARD	CONTROL
People falling from the hoist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Platform must only be operated by people who are trained and competent to do so • Where appropriate, people in the hoist should be harnessed • The operator must never go aloft in the basket (unless a second operator is present at ground level) so as a rescue may be affected in the event of failure • The operator must never stand on the guard rails of the cage • The operator must never reach over the top of the basket guard rails • The hoist must not be moved with people aloft unless it is designed to do so • Joyriding in the hoist is never permitted
Items falling from the hoist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All equipment taken in the hoist must be safely stowed • All equipment used should be tethered to prevent falling over the side • An exclusion zone around the hoist must be put in place
Collapse, overturning or failure of the hoist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All hoists are regularly inspected and tested in line with LOLER Requirements • A pre-user check must be carried out by the operator before each use • All platforms are regularly maintained by a competent person • The platform should be used on firm and level ground • All appropriate devices such as outriggers are used as designed where necessary • The platform must be used with Safe Working Limits. The safe Working limit should be displayed clearly on the equipment. • It is the operator's responsibility to ensure the safe operation of the platform and the work area • When used externally, the weather conditions must be taken into account and not operated in high winds

<p>The hoist striking equipment, buildings, overhead obstructions, people etc. during operation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There must be effective communications between the MEWP operator and ground-level marshals/crew at all times • The operator must confirm that they regard the position of the machine as safe • The number of people in the cage must be kept to a minimum. The platform must never carry more people than it is designed to • There must be adequate provision to prevent unauthorised access to the base of the platform which should be managed by the operator • The platform should never be raised in the vicinity of members of the public • The MEWP must not be operated close to overhead cables or other dangerous machinery, or allow any part of the arm to protrude into a traffic route
<p>Emergency Procedures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If anyone is trapped in the elevated cage because of equipment failure, where possible an attempt should be made by the operator to lower the cage by bleeding down the hydraulics system • If no one can reach the ground using an escape system, contact the emergency services. A personal escape system (e.g. Davey Escape where fitted) should only be used as a last resort • Under no circumstances should a second hoist be used to affect a rescue (except by the emergency services)
<p>Collapse of Floor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of any plant or machinery should be within the safe working loads for the supporting floor area
<p>Overloading of articulated boom or work platform</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Machine load notices and manufacturer's instructions must be adhered to • There are no circumstances when the stated maximum load should be exceeded (which will include combined weight of operatives, tools and equipment) • Suitable advance planning and assessment of activity or project