



# WEBER STATE UNIVERSITY

## Environmental Health & Safety

### RESCUE PLAN AND GUIDANCE FORM SAFE USE PLAN

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Site Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Implementation: \_\_\_\_\_ Equipment Type(s): \_\_\_\_\_

GROUND PERSONNEL WHO HAVE RECEIVED FAMILIARIZATION AND ARE AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE THE GROUND CONTROLS

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE/RADIO/PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE/RADIO/PAGE \_\_\_\_\_

PRE-OPERATION
Verify that the ground key is available Designate ground rescue personnel (received familiarization training on MEWP) Verify the method of raising alarm / notification communication needs Confirm the rescue sequence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Operator</li> <li>- Ground staff</li> <li>- Another MEWP</li> </ul>

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS	PROPOSED RESPONSE
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

ONSITE QUALIFIED PERSON		
NAME	LOCATION	PHONE/RADIO/PAGE

## GUIDANCE ON RESCUE PLANS FOR MOBILE ELEVATING WORK PLATFORMS

### 1- SELF-RESCUE (BY THE PERSON INVOLVED)

**Platform Auxiliary Controls:** If the primary platform controls stop responding, the operator should try to activate the platform auxiliary controls to lower the machine to the ground.

**Platform-Installed Self-Rescue System:** If the platform controls are not responding and there are no other workers in the area who can provide assistance, a platform-installed self-rescue system should be used. These after-market devices can be mounted in the platform. This allows the operator to self-rescue by attaching the system to the front D-ring on their harness, exiting the platform, and using the device to lower themselves to the ground.

Operators must receive extensive training on the use of the system and machine manufacturer approval before installing the system on the machine. Whenever an individual is suspended in air, it is critical that they continuously pump their legs (as if riding a bicycle) to minimize the likelihood of suspension trauma injury. Suspension trauma could be fatal within 30 minutes of the initial fall. This 30-minute window refers to when the fall protection plan must contain plans for a “prompt” rescue.

**Personal Self-Rescue System:** These systems can be used to lower the individual from the platform or to self-rescue after experiencing a fall or ejection from the platform. These after-market devices can be mounted directly onto the operator’s full-body harness. The PFPE lanyard is then attached to the device before starting work. The system allows the operator to self-rescue by exiting the platform and activating the device to lower themselves to the ground or to within rescue range from another MEWP. Operators must receive extensive training on the use of the system and approval from their employer before installing the system on their harness.

**Suspension Trauma Safety Straps:** These lightweight systems mount onto the side straps of the operator’s harness. In the case of fall or ejection from the platform, the operator opens the case to release the straps, connects them at the proper length, and steps into the loop created by the straps. This allows the operator to stand up in their harness and relieve the pressure being applied to the arteries and veins around the top of the legs until they can be rescued.

### 2- ASSISTED RESCUE (BY OTHERS IN THE WORK AREA)

PLEASE NOTE: RESCUE SHOULD ONLY BE CARRIED OUT BY APPROPRIATELY TRAINED PERSONNEL

**Primary Ground Controls:** If the operator cannot lower the platform to the ground by the primary or auxiliary platform controls, or if the operator has been incapacitated, a person on the ground who has been familiarized on proper use of the controls may use the primary ground controls to lower the machine.

**Auxiliary Ground Controls:** If the primary ground controls are not responding, the person on the ground should try to activate the auxiliary ground controls. If all ground controls are not responding, the ground personnel should immediately contact onsite qualified personnel to assess the situation and provide further guidance.

**Use of a Secondary MEWP:** Sometimes a MEWP is unable to be lowered, for example during a complete machine malfunction or work platform entanglement. During platform entanglement, the operator and occupants must be removed from the platform before trying to free the platform.

MEWPs that have tipped beyond their center of gravity must be stabilized and secured before rescue attempts.

Rescue using another MEWP should be carried out only after a thorough site review by a qualified person has been performed and a plan has been created. The plan should consider the following:

- Position the rescue machine to allow the rescue without compromising the safety of personnel involved in the rescue.
- Place the platforms of both machines adjacent to each other with a minimal gap between them. The power on both machines should be shut off during the transfer.
- Implement safeguards to prevent unintended movement of either platform during the transfer.
- Verify all personnel in the platform, including the person being rescued, are wearing the proper fall protection equipment. The lanyard(s) must be attached to the anchor points on the rescue machine before the transfer takes place.
- Verify the rescue machine is not overloaded during the rescue. Make more than one trip to complete the rescue if necessary.
- Comply with the manufacturer’s requirements stated in the operator’s manual. Immediately contact emergency personnel if there is injury, illness or risk of exposure.