

HSEM ALERT

Scissor Lift Incident

Who needs to read this?

All Curtin University Staff and Contractors

Incident Details

On Thursday 26 April 2018, a contractor was cleaning the external brick work of B205 Level 2 whilst standing in a scissor lift cradle which was extended approximately 7 metres above the ground. At around 12.15pm, staff and students in the area heard a loud noise and screams for help. Staff from B205 rushed to the area, noticed the scissor lift had tipped over and the contractor laying on the ground a few metres away.

The contractor was provided immediate first aid by the local Incident Response Team and Safer Communities officers, then taken to hospital by ambulance. He received significant injuries to his face, legs and ankles as a result of the fall.

Investigation Findings



- The hose being used was at its maximum extension and bound around the cradle of the scissor lift.
- The hose being used by the contractor was not of adequate length for the job being undertaken.
- Approved Job Safety Analysis and Safe Work Method Statement were not complied with.
 - There was no spotter to monitor the activity and prevent over extension of the hose.
 - Contractor did not have suitable safety equipment, i.e.: barricading, which had to then be provided by Curtin.



Recommendations

- Ensure that a Job Safety Analysis, Safe Work Method Statement and Work Permits are completed, approved and kept on site at all times. Where these are not available on request, contractors will be asked to cease all activities immediately.
- Contractors to arrive on site prepared for the work and with suitable equipment and personnel to comply with Permit, Job Safety Analysis and Safe Work Method Statement requirements. Where this is not complied with, contractors will be asked to cease all activities immediately and leave site.
- Mobile and other equipment selection to be 'fit for purpose'. Where equipment is not deemed appropriate for the job, contractors will be asked to cease all activities immediately and leave site.
- Complete a site inspection & job task review to identify possible hazards and additional controls required, e.g. hose length, weak link clips, fall arrest equipment, mobile equipment weight rating for total load (includes personnel and tools).
- Conduct a visual inspection of all equipment to ensure they are in good working condition and fit for purpose.
- Check the working environment for hazards e.g. over-head power lines or other obstructions in the vicinity of work site. Work surface to be even, stable, and clear of debris, alternatively, use an all-terrain lift with extended outriggers to maintain stability during operations.
- Ensure adequate exclusion zones and barricading are set up around the work area to prevent access to the area and risk from falling objects eg: hand tools.
- Do not attach hoses, power leads, etc. to the cradle. Wherever possible, all equipment should be contained within the elevated work platform boundary. Where this is not possible, a spotter is to be provided.
- Lower the cradle prior to moving or exiting the scissor lifts.
- Workers to remain within the cradle and guardrails when working at heights. Ensure the load weight is evenly distributed on the platform.
- Ensure that cradle gates are closed and guard rails are secured in place.
- Load scissor lift for transport whilst still within the barricaded area.



Who do we call with questions?

If you have any queries, please contact Health, Safety and Emergency Management on 9266 4900 or email healthandsafety@curtin.edu.au.

References

- Elevating work platform manufacturer's instructions/operators manual.
- [Australian Standard 2550.10 – 2006 Safe use of mobile elevating work platforms.](#)
- [Western Australian Commission for Occupational Safety and Health - Code of practice - Prevention of falls at Workplaces.](#)
- [Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996](#)

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