



OH&S Safety Matters

EWP's in the Access Industry

An aerial work platform (AWP), also known as an aerial device, elevating work platform (EWP), or mobile elevating work platform (MEWP) is a hydraulically, electrically or mechanically controlled devices used to provide temporary access for workers and their tools to inaccessible areas, usually at height. In the access industry these include: scissor lifts, articulated boom lifts, individual personnel lifts, self-propelled lifts, manual "push-around" lifts, elevating rolling work platforms, self-propelled elevating work platforms, boom-type elevating work platforms, vehicle-mounted aerial devices and aerial work platforms.

An elevating work platform can be moved by hand or it may travel under its own power. If the platform travels under power when operated by controls on the work platform it is termed "self propelled." There are two types of self propelled units, those that are boom supported, and other designs, such as self-propelled scissor lifts.

If an elevating work platform is moved by hand or is attached to the deck of a powered vehicle, it is called a "portable elevating work platform." There are a range of types of portable elevating work platforms in use, from elevating equipment mounted on service trucks, to compressed gas power lifts that are moved by hand. Mast climbers that provide access to the face of a building vertically as work proceeds are also included in this group.

CSA and ANSI standards require boom supported elevating work platforms to be equipped with anchorage(s) for connection of worker fall protection devices that are required to be worn while they are occupying the platform. Platforms are designed to be used on an on-slab surface which means any asphalt, concrete, or equivalent surface or an off-slab surface. EWP's are one of the safest ways for workers to reach hard to get to places for extended periods of time.

Get the Instructor Certification you need to deliver EWP Safety Training on your job site Call OH&S Today !

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Working Alone or Working in Isolation

BC's occupational health and safety regulation Part 4 sections 4.20.2 to 4.23, states that "to work alone or in isolation" means to work in circumstances where *assistance would not be readily available to the worker in case of an emergency, or in case the worker was injured or in ill health.*

If there are two or more workers of different employers working in the same vicinity and each worker is capable of and willing to provide assistance in a timely manner, this can qualify as the means of assistance necessary to be "readily available".

Providing workers with electronic means of communication, such as a phone, radio, or personal alarm, does not guarantee that the condition of "assistance that is readily available" has been met. A "person check" system alone is also unlikely to meet the "readily available" test.

If a worker cannot be seen or heard by persons capable of providing assistance in a timely manner, then he or she should be regarded as working alone or in isolation.

Being assigned to work alone or in isolation means that the worker is directed or expected to work during a scheduled period of time, such as a specified work shift or a specified portion of a work shift. During that time it is anticipated or expected that the worker will be working alone or

in isolation. The employer is expected to assess the likelihood of hazards to workers assigned to work alone or in isolation.

The assessment of the hazards is based on what reasonably could be anticipated for that workplace or work activity.

The employer must develop and implement a **written procedure for checking the well-being** of a worker assigned to work alone or in isolation. The procedure for checking must include the time interval between checks and the procedure to follow in case the worker cannot be contacted, including emergency rescue provisions.

Check-in Procedures

The worker's supervisor is responsible to provide and to explain check-in procedures, and to ensure satisfactory application and documenting of the check-in procedure.

Check-in procedures apply to all employees working in areas where there is risk of violence or discontinuous communications, or in situations where a worker could become stranded due to a vehicle break-down.

Check-in procedures apply in the following circumstances:

1. When an employee is driving

(working) alone and plans to be away from the office for two (2) or more hours.

2. When two or more employees working together plan to be away from the office for four (4) or more hours.
3. When one or more employees undertake travel that includes staying out of town overnight for work.

Check-in Intervals

To decide on the appropriate check-in interval, employees will consider known hazards and anticipated hazards associated with the route, driving duration, the number of travellers in the party (i.e. working alone or not) and the availability of assistance should an emergency occur.

The guidelines for check-in intervals are:

Driving in the city

- Normal conditions: every 4 hours and at the trip completion.
- Moderate to high-risk conditions (e.g. poor visibility due to heavy rain or fog, slippery due to ice or snow, driving in dangerous areas or after hours): every 2 hours and at the trip completion.



Driving outside a municipality between communities

- Normal conditions: every two (2) hours and at the completion of the trip.
- Moderate conditions to high-risk conditions: every 1 hour and at the trip completion.

Check-in Methods

Employees can check-in using the phone, text or email. When working alone, the driver must pull over before sending or responding to a check-in; or a passenger is to conduct the check-ins.

In all cases, the travelling worker has the responsible to initiate the scheduled check-ins. The check-in contact (supervisor) will note the time of the check-in, and will confirm the time of the next scheduled check-in with the driver.



Off Road Vehicle Impact



Off-road vehicles (ORVs) are increasing in use for work. The definition of ORVs has been expanded and includes:

- All-terrain vehicles (or “quads”),
- Side-by-sides (e.g., “argos”, “rhinos” and “razors”),
- Off-road motorcycles,
- Snowmobiles,
- Jeeps, trucks, and SUVs.

Natural resources are affected by the use of off road vehicles. Soil compaction, and removal of the forest litter layer can reduce vegetation growth and is a factor in accelerated erosion rates.

ORV's impact not only land and water quality, but also wildlife populations, by reducing the productivity of foraging areas.

ORV operators can minimize the levels of disturbance by using approved routes and when ever possible stay away from known environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands and sand dunes. Stay off private property, plantations, beaches and use approved off-road vehicle bridges to cross waterways.

Crossing Water and Streams

When it is necessary to cross water, assess the situation before proceeding. Do not cross streams that are deep or swift. Make sure that you can see the bottom of the stream and that the water doesn't become deeper part way across.

Check the stream's bottom for mud, boulders, or submerged obstacles. Check the force of the current. If the current has to be counteracted to maintain balance and direction of travel, the stream is too strong to cross.

Obtain permission to cross a stream from the landowner or government agency, if required. Some jurisdictions do require a permit from fisheries authorities.

When crossing a stream, choose a place to ford where both banks have a gradual slope. Do not ford where it will damage the banks, the stream bed or the location of fish spawning grounds.

It is imperative to operate your ORV safely and to minimize the environmental impacts.

Buy-into Health and Safety



Whether you are a construction worker, or an office clerk, it's all the same—we need to put an emphasis on health and safety.

When we talk about health and safety during tailgate meeting we put safety at the forefront, we are demonstrating its significance.

We need to establish and enable a culture that promotes health and safety and puts workers first.

Getting buy-in for health & safety is crucial in empowering the

workforce and building a culture that truly values health and safety. Everyone should feel responsible for health and safety and should be cognizant of the risks in their surroundings.

The closer we get to making it a value, the better off we will be when working on the jobsite or at home.

As the air turns cooler and leaves drop from the trees, it's important to keep Autumn Health & Safety at the forefront of our minds.

OH&S Safety Training Solutions 778.471.6407

Classroom Based - Instructor Led Safety Training



ATV and LTV Operator
Our ATV and LTV Operator course has been developed for those with an occupational requirement to be trained to safely undertake work activities that involve the operation of an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and/or a Utility Terrain Vehicle (LTV). The goal of this course is to help you better understand what an ATV and LTV Operator responsibilities are and how to manage those responsibilities to protect your health and safety and the health and safety of your co-workers.



Boom Trucks, Ladders and Aerials
This training program encompasses activities that involve the operation of Light Duty Boom Trucks (with a rated capacity of less than five tons with a boom length of less than 25 feet based on the manufacturer's user instructions), ladders and the rigging of loads. Only qualified persons trained in the inspection, application, and operation of a crane or hoist, including the recognition and avoidance of hazards associated with their operation, shall operate the equipment.



Confined Space Entry - General Industry
Confined spaces are potentially one of the most dangerous of all workplaces. However the goal of this course is to prepare you to safely perform work in a confined space. By the end of this course you will be able to describe a confined space, describe various hazards and know how to handle hazards that are identified, you will understand the confined space permit system and about something go terribly wrong, you will know how to effect a non entry rescue.



Confined Space Entry - Mining Industry
The Mines Act and the accompanying Health, Safety and Rehabilitation Code for mines in British Columbia is the Code protect workers health and safety and it requires legislation required to confined space activities. This legislation obligates the mine manager to ensure that written procedures are developed and each person who is assigned duties or responsibilities related to entry into a confined space is adequately trained. This course will provide you with the information that is used to implement a Confined Space Entry Program.



Confined Space Rescue Basics
The occupational health and safety regulation requires the employer to prepare a written confined space entry program that includes procedures for rescue. This course will provide the information used to establish an effective confined space rescue response and the training that is needed to prepare individuals to implement rescue operations. It takes a mix of prevention, planning, preparation, training and communication to create and sustain an effective Confined Space Rescue response.

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Staying in Touch

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