



**EWPA**

Keeping MEWPs in a Safe  
Working Condition



# Keeping MEWPs in a Safe Working Condition

This presentation was produced to raise awareness of the risk associated when MEWPs are damaged or contaminated.

When used correctly Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs) are an effective way to safely working at height.

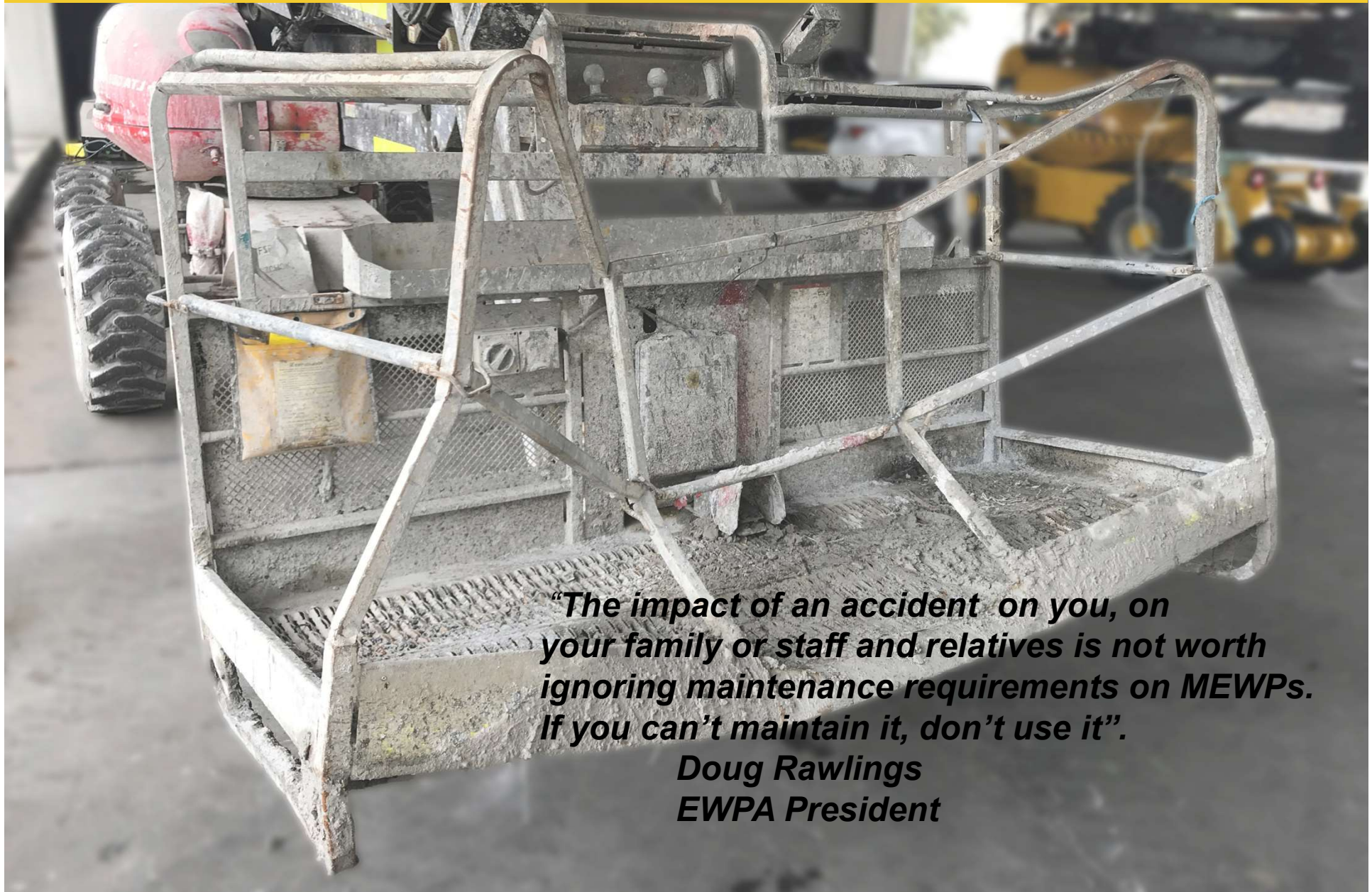
However, people have been seriously injured and killed in accidents involving MEWPs.

To safely use an MEWP requires maintaining the equipment in a safe working condition.

This has been developed by the EWPA and its members, drawing on the experience and expertise of the members of the Access Industry.

# Keeping MEWPs in a Safe Working Condition

**EWPA**



***“The impact of an accident on you, on your family or staff and relatives is not worth ignoring maintenance requirements on MEWPs. If you can’t maintain it, don’t use it”.***

***Doug Rawlings  
EWPA President***





## Using MEWPs

Working at height in harsh conditions



## Damage

Illustrations of damage, degradation and contamination

# Concrete Dust Slag Paint



## Is it safe?

How the damage and contamination results in an unsafe machine



## What to do

Keep the MEWP in a safe condition with these Proactive Practices.



# Keeping MEWPs in a Safe Working Condition

MEWPs are used in tough environments

– *construction sites, tunnels, mining, demolition, ground engineering* –

But what measures are required to prepare the MEWP for the site conditions?



## Working at height

Mobile Elevating Work Platforms used in many industries



- > arboriculture
- > building and construction
- > bush and forest industries
- > electrical supply and distribution
- > film and television
- > plant and machinery hire
- > port operations
- > sign writing and advertising
- > stock picking
- > railways
- > telecommunications
- > warehousing



# Typical damage

MEWPs returned from hire

## Controls



*How can the operator safely control this machine?*



## Typical damage

MEWPs returned from hire



Work Platform



*How effective are these guardrails to protect the operator from falls ?*



## Typical damage

MEWPs returned from hire

Decals



*What is the safe working load?*



## Typical damage

MEWPs returned from hire



Chassis



*Are there cracks? Is it structurally sound?*





## Typical damage

MEWPs returned from hire



Scissor stack (lifting components)



*Is there damage  
hidden under the  
concrete and dust?*

## Is it safe?

### Controls

The control marking needs to be readable and easy to identify which direction the MEWP will move.



#### **AS 2550.10**

Notices critical to the various relevant operating configurations of the MEWP shall be in plain English and SI units (using diagrams where appropriate) and be **legible, clear and permanently displayed prominently on the MEWP.**



## Is it safe?

### Work platform

Debris, concrete and other material left in the work platform creates an unsafe work area

This can overload the MEWP  
And be a trip hazard leading  
to a fall from height





## Safety Equipment

Safety devices and emergency equipment must be accessible and in proper working order.

This fire extinguisher covered in concrete slag will not be effective if needed

## Is it safe?



## What to do

**EWPA**ELEVATING WORK PLATFORM ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA  
Information Sheet**MEWP Safe Working Condition**Keeping the machine in a safe and satisfactory condition  
when operating in harsh environments

Mobile Elevating Work Platforms (MEWPs) can be used in harsh environments such as – construction sites, tunnels, mining, demolition, ground engineering and other industrial settings. When used in these severe conditions then additional measures must be taken for safe operation.

**What work environments**

The work environment, plus the frequency and severity of use can significantly impact the working condition of the MEWP. It can be exposed to a variety of occupational and environmental hazards that could affect the safe working condition of the machine.

If its shotcreting, demolition, painting, or other severe applications, it is common for a MEWP to be covered in overspray, paint, concrete, slag, excessive dust and other substances or damaged from collision.

This can reduce the function and effectiveness of components critical to the occupants' safety such as operating controls, safety devices, emergency lowering devices, moving parts, instructions and warning decals. It can also conceal areas of damage and inhibit proper visual inspection during operational and maintenance checks.

Without implementing adequate measures, the MEWP can place the occupants and other people at risk of serious injury or death.



### MEWP Selection

- Choose the right MEWP for the task and conditions
- Consider the MEWP capabilities
  - Rough Terrain
  - Outreach
  - Rated Capacity
- Discuss with supplier for options
  - Cylinder bellows
  - Machine coatings
  - Platform covers
- Consider the work environment
  - Ground conditions
  - Temperature
  - Wind
- **Don't use a MEWP in an unsafe condition**
- The EWPA Supervisors course gives guidance on MEWP selection
- Read the EWPA guidance : *MEWP Safe Working Condition*

The EWPA provides a Supervisors course for those responsible for planning, supervising or managing the use of MEWPs to ensure that work is undertaken safely and suitable prevention strategies are implemented.

[\*\*VIEW COURSE INFORMATION\*\*](#)

## What to do

### Identify what needs protecting

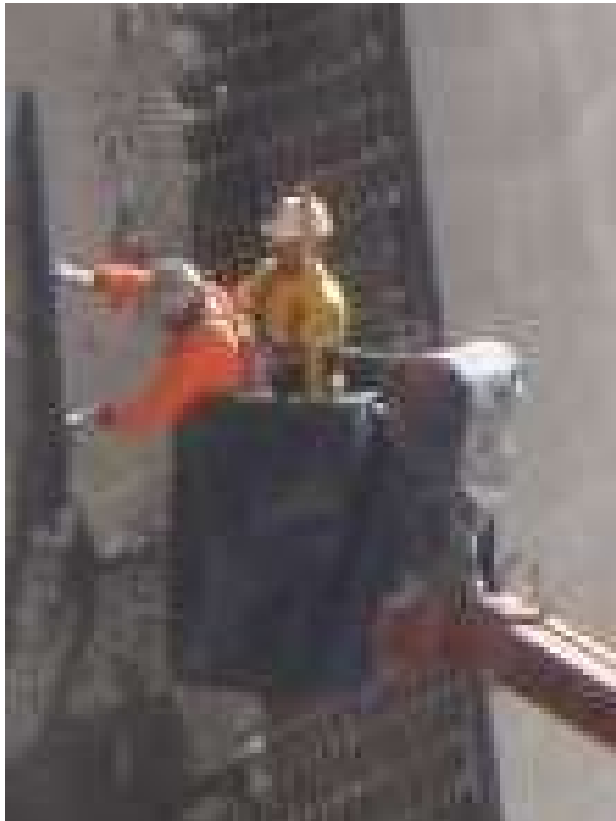
- Control Panels – platform and ground controls
- Safety Devices
  - Slope sensors
  - Speed controls
  - Load sensing system
  - Operating envelope (boom outreach)
- Emergency equipment and PPE
  - Fire extinguishers
- Guardrails and platform floor
- Lowering controls including the emergency lowering system





## Identify what needs protecting

# What to do



- If a protective cover is used to totally enclose the work platform, contact the supplier and the MEWP manufacturer to review

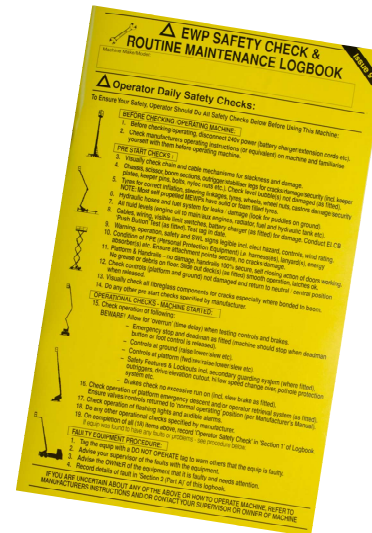
This modification can increase the wind loading and significantly reduce the stability of the MEWP.

- Make sure that the controls are still visible

## What to do

### Clean and Inspect

- Keep the MEWP clean
  - Wash off overspray
  - Remove debris and waste material
  - Clear contamination and wedged objects
- Check the MEWP for debris and slag
  - Platform and control panels
  - Chassis and wheels/tracks
  - Booms and cattrac
- Conduct a daily inspection and pre-operation inspections. Refer to the checklist stored in the EWPA logbook and the operators manual written by the manufacturer.



## Replace decals

# What to do

- Replace any illegible decals
- Make sure that all controls and the marking can be easily read





## Further reading

**01**

### **MEWP Safe Working condition**

<https://ewpa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/MEWP-Safe-Condition-guide.pdf>

**02**

### **EWPA Good practice guide**

<https://ewpa.com.au/resources/good-practice-guide/>

**03**

### **Safe Use information pack**

<https://ewpa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/31.-EWP-Safe-Use-Info-Pack-Issue-03.pdf>

**04**

### **Supervisors Course**

<https://ewpa.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/9.-MEWP-Supervisor-Course-overview.pdf>



# THANK YOU.

The EWPA represents the access industry and is at the forefront of best practice and safety.

The aim of the EWPA is to advance the safe use of MEWPs in Australia and to support a safe and skilled workforce.

We do this by providing safety and technical resources plus training programs including the [EWPA Yellow Card](#).

## Contact us.

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