



Construction Industry Safety Alert

The purpose of this alert is to raise awareness and prevent reoccurrence of this type of incident

Safety Alert

Description of Incident:	At a Construction site, a work crew were installing plastic protection over storage shelves using a Toucan 10-e boom lift. During movement of the boom lift, the Boom lift reversed up the spotters leg (spotter was facing away from the machine), causing significant trauma to the workers lower left leg including 3 fractures.	
Photos:		

Direct Cause(s) of the Incident

1. The spotter was in the operational zone of the boom lift. The spotter was not concentrating on spotting the machine and was located in the machines blind spot at the rear of the boom lift
2. The operator communicated that they were moving, however, the communication was not acknowledged by the spotter and no feedback was required before the operator moved.
3. The Boom lift operator moved the machine, even though they did not ensure that other members of the work crew were outside of the exclusion zone.

Corrective Actions/Controls

Extract from Guide to managing the risks of elevating work platforms – Guidance material SWA (Section 5.2 Spotters)

- **Lack of reliable communication between the people at a work site and the EWP operator may lead to unsafe EWP operations**, such as collision with other plant and structures which can lead to injuries or fatalities.
- A spotter is a person who communicates directly with the EWP operator from the ground. A spotter can minimise crush and collision risks by alerting the EWP operator of any surrounding hazards or obstacles. Spotters can also assist and raise an alarm in the case of an emergency.
- Spotters should be used where an EWP operator is unable to judge distances, see the pathway of the EWP or there are structures or plant in the vicinity of the work being carried out, such as power lines and overhead structures. A spotter should be adequately trained in the use of the ground controls, emergency procedures and potential hazards related to the EWP.
- The spotter should understand the task to be completed, the hazards involved and any other planned activity on the worksite including the movement of other machinery.
- They should be aware of the functionality and limitations of the EWP and be capable of retrieving the work platform in an emergency and be familiar with the controls and emergency systems of the EWP being used.
- You should undertake a risk assessment before deciding to use spotters. You should consider any additional risks introduced by this control measure. For instance, the spotter may be at risk of being struck by falling objects or the EWP overturning or otherwise making contact. **When moving the machine, ensure the spotter is visible and not at risk of being struck by the EWP. Never continue moving if the spotter is not visible.**