

MEWP EMERGENCY LOWERING AND RESCUE

ACTIVITY RAMS — ADAPT TO SITE BEFORE USE

Ground rescuer · emergency descent · entrapment · overhead lines · casualty care after rescue

KD-RA-PL-004 Rev A0

Statutory basis: Work at Height Regulations 2005 reg 4, including reg 4(2) planning for emergencies and rescue; HSE GEIS6 (2014) and BS 8460:2025 for MEWP ground controls, emergency descent, familiarisation and rescue; HSE INDG401 (rev 2, 2014), which advises against relying entirely on the emergency services for rescue; HSE RR708 (2009) for first aid after rescue from harness suspension; HSE GS6 (4th edition, 2013) for overhead power lines; LOLER 1998 regs 8 and 9 and PUWER 1998 reg 9 for lifting operations, examination and training; Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981 reg 3; CDM 2015 regs 13 and 15. This document is the recorded safe system of work required by HSWA 1974 s.2(2)(a) and MHSWR 1999 regs 3 and 5.

1 DOCUMENT AND PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

RAMS REFERENCE	PROJECT / SITE REF	SITE NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE PREPARED	NEXT REVIEW DATE
CLIENT / PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR	PLANNED START	DURATION	OPERATIVES	SUPERVISING THE WORK

2 SCOPE OF WORKS

The arrangements for recovering a MEWP platform and its occupants when the operator cannot: using the ground controls and emergency lowering, releasing an operator trapped against a structure or taken ill at height, auxiliary or manual descent after machine failure, contact with overhead lines, a platform that cannot be lowered, and care of the casualty once down.

This document does not cover: routine MEWP operation, ground assessment and fall restraint (KD-RAMS-PL-002), and rescue from rope access or suspended access equipment (KD-RAMS-HA series).

SITE-SPECIFIC SCOPE, LOCATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

3 RISK ASSESSMENT — SCORE EACH RISK FOR THIS SITE, THEN ADD WHAT IS MISSING

The hazards and controls below are the starting point for this activity, written by a working main contractor. They are not complete for your site until a competent person has scored each risk, added the site-specific hazards, and struck out anything that does not apply. Rate risks High / Medium / Low before and after controls.

1. Operator trapped against a structure and unable to release the controls

At risk: Operator

Controls: Crush points on the route briefed before work; secondary guarding or anti-entrapment devices, where fitted, tested before first use each day; the ground rescuer trained to move the platform away from the obstruction using the ground controls or emergency lowering, in the way the manufacturer's instructions describe.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

2. Nobody at ground level able to operate the ground controls

At risk: Operator at height

Controls: A named ground rescuer on site whenever the platform is raised, familiarised on that model's ground controls and emergency lowering, within reach and able to operate it without the operator's help; ground controls and emergency lowering function-tested in each shift's pre-use check, with any fault taking the machine out of use; no lone MEWP working at height.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

3. Operator taken ill or injured at height

At risk: Operator

Controls: Operator carries a radio or phone and is checked on at agreed intervals; if the operator stops responding the rescuer lowers the platform from the ground at once and calls the emergency services — the plan does not rely on them to recover the platform, as HSE INDG401 (rev 2, 2014) advises.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4. Platform or boom touching or close to an overhead line or energised conductor

At risk: Operator, rescuer, everyone nearby

Controls: Positions near overhead lines planned under the overhead lines permit and HSE GS6 (4th edition, 2013). If the machine touches or arcs to a line: the operator stays on the platform, nobody touches the machine, everyone is kept well clear, and the network operator is called to isolate the line before any rescue starts.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

5. Machine failure — power loss, hydraulic fault or tilt alarm at height

At risk: Operator, those below

Controls: Operator follows the manufacturer's emergency procedure from the platform; the exclusion below is held while the rescuer uses auxiliary or manual descent; a machine that has tilted or alarmed is recovered by lowering only, never driven, and not used again until a competent person has inspected it.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

6. Platform that cannot be lowered by any means

At risk: Operator at height

Controls: Planned for before work starts, as Work at Height Regulations 2005 reg 4 requires: the operator stays restrained on the platform and in contact with the rescuer; the hire company's technician and the fire and rescue service are called at once; the exclusion below is held. Site staff never transfer anyone between platforms — transfer is a last resort only under a specific rescue assessment carried out by trained persons.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

7. Operator left suspended in a harness

At risk: Operator

Controls: Short restraint lanyards adjusted so the operator cannot leave the platform; if anyone is ever suspended, rescue is immediate using the platform or ground controls; once down, first aid follows normal first-aid practice — the older advice to keep the casualty sitting up is not supported by HSE RR708 (2009); the ambulance crew is told how long the person was suspended.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

8. Rescuer injured during the recovery

At risk: Ground rescuer

Controls: Rescuer works from the ground controls outside the platform's descent path and away from anything overhead; nobody climbs the boom or chassis.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

Site-specific hazards not listed above — every site has at least one:

HAZARD	WHO IS AT RISK	CONTROLS	INITIAL H/...	RESIDUAL...	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4 METHOD — SEQUENCE OF WORK

- Before the platform rises, name the ground rescuer and familiarise them on this machine's ground controls, emergency lowering and manual descent points.
- Test the ground controls and emergency lowering in the pre-use check and record the result; take the machine out of use on any fault.
- Brief the crush points and any overhead lines on the route; agree radio or phone check-ins between operator and rescuer; confirm a first-aider is on site and ambulance access is clear.
- The rescuer stays on site and within reach whenever the platform is raised.
- In an emergency the operator stops all movement, calls the rescuer and follows the manufacturer's emergency procedure.
- If the operator cannot recover the platform or does not respond, the rescuer takes over at the ground controls, moves the platform clear of any obstruction as the manufacturer describes, and lowers it.
- If the ground controls fail, use auxiliary or manual descent to the manufacturer's procedure while the exclusion below is held.
- If the machine is in contact with an overhead line, keep everyone clear, keep the operator on the platform, and call the network operator — no rescue until the line is isolated.
- If the platform cannot be lowered by any means, keep the operator restrained and in contact, and call the hire company's technician and the fire and rescue service.
- Call the emergency services at once for anyone trapped, suspended, injured or unresponsive; give first aid by normal practice and tell the crew how long any suspension lasted.
- Take the machine out of use until a competent person has inspected it, and report the incident through the site procedure.

SITE-SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE SEQUENCE**5 PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS**

- | | |
|---|---|
| MEWP with tested ground controls and emergency lowering | Harness and short restraint lanyard (booms) |
| Manufacturer's operating manual kept on the machine | First-aid kit |
| Radios or phones for operator and rescuer | Barriers for the exclusion below |

INSPECTION / THOROUGH EXAMINATION REFS**COSHH ASSESSMENT REFS****6 PPE — THE LAST LINE OF CONTROL, NOT THE FIRST**

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|--|
| Head protection | Gloves — task-rated | Harness with short restraint lanyard (booms) |
| Safety footwear | Eye protection | |
| High visibility | Hearing protection | |

RPE TYPE, FACE-FIT STATUS, AND ANY OTHER PPE REQUIRED

7 PERMITS REQUIRED BEFORE THIS WORK STARTS

A permit authorises this work in that place, on that day. It extends the safe system of work in this document — it does not replace it (HSE HSG250). The site issues the permit; record its number before work starts.

KD-PTW-WH-006 — Work at Height Permit

Where the site requires a permit for MEWP work — the ground rescuer is named on it.

PERMIT NUMBER

KD-PTW-OH-031 — Work Near Overhead Power Lines Permit

Where the platform or boom could reach an overhead line.

PERMIT NUMBER

8 EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS — COMPLETE FOR THIS SITE

FIRST AIDER AND LOCATION

NEAREST A&E

ASSEMBLY POINT

HOW THE ALARM IS RAISED

EMERGENCY ACCESS FOR THIS WORK AREA

SPILL / ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE

9 BRIEFING RECORD — EVERYONE WORKING UNDER THIS RAMS SIGNS BEFORE STARTING

By signing you confirm the contents of this RAMS have been explained to you, you understand the hazards and controls, and you will work to the sequence stated. Tell the supervisor if the work or the site does not match this document — work stops until it does.

NAME	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE

10 PREPARED AND ACCEPTED

Prepared / adapted for this site by — I confirm I have adapted this document to the site, scored the risks, and that it describes how the work will actually be done.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE / COMPETENCE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Accepted for the site by — principal contractor or site manager review.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Review this RAMS if the work, the site or the law changes, and at least before each new phase of the works. Flatten the completed PDF before filing so the record cannot be silently edited.

R REVISION HISTORY

Every revision of this document, and every review that found nothing to change. The revision on the front of this sheet is the one you are holding — check kubitdocs.com for the current one before use.

Rev	Date	Class	What changed	Authorised by
D0	2026-09-11	first-issue	First issue.	— not yet approved —
A0	2026-09-11	review	Approved for issue by the author. Content unchanged from the reviewed draft; the draft status strip is removed. No independent third-party review has been carried out.	Author — director, UK principal contractor, SMSTS. Not an independent review.

Class: first-issue · material (the law, a control, a field or the scope changed — past buyers are notified) · editorial (wording or layout only) · review (checked, nothing changed) · withdrawal. Revision prefix D = draft, not approved and not for sale; A = approved for issue by the person named, on the date shown.