



# NEVER ATTACH A BANNER TO A MEWP TOOLBOX TALK

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS WHEN ATTACHING A BANNER TO A MEWP?

Mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs) are not advertising displays. MEWPs are designed to take persons, tools and equipment within the platform to enable the occupants to work safely at height.

Attaching a sign or banner to a MEWP will potentially make the MEWP unstable. This can cause an overturn and result in serious injuries to people and damage to property.

Wind speed will often increase with height, as well as between or over buildings or objects (the funnel effect). What feels like low wind speed on the ground may be quite different when the platform is raised.

Even indoors a MEWP can be subject to wind coming through large openings.

## WHAT MEWPS ARE AFFECTED?

All MEWPs are affected by banners attached to their platforms and upper structural components.

## WHO NEEDS TO KNOW?

This toolbox talk applies to:

- User (who has control of the use of the MEWP on site);
- Site manager and supervisors where MEWPs are in use;
- MEWP operators.

## WHO AND WHAT IS AT RISK?

- The MEWP occupants;
- Site-based personnel;
- Members of the public;
- Property.

## HOW AM I AT RISK?

MEWPs are designed and constructed to specific standards that must consider wind loading as part of their stability. Attaching a banner or a sign to a MEWP can significantly increase the area exposed to wind. The banner or sign acts like a sail which can lead to instability or even cause the MEWP to overturn.

**Never attach  
banners to a MEWP  
or between MEWPS**



## USEFUL REFERENCES

- IPAF MEWP Operator's Safety Guide
- Andy Access poster (available at [www.ipaf.org/andyaccess](http://www.ipaf.org/andyaccess))
- Statement of Best Practices for Workplace Risk Assessment and Aerial Work Platform Equipment Selection (available at [www.ipaf.org/resources](http://www.ipaf.org/resources))
- Exhibition Guidelines for Powered Access Machines (available at [www.ipaf.org/resources](http://www.ipaf.org/resources))
- Manufacturer's Operating Manual