

**Toolbox talks**

**Working platforms**

**Background information:**

A working platform is a position from which someone is required to work above normal or artificially created ground level.

**Hazards:**

- Collapse of equipment
- Tripping hazards
- Falling from heights
- Ladders and scaffolds
- Falling objects
- Slippery surfaces
- Ramps and gradients.

**Health and safety points:**

- The most essential requirement for any working platform is that it must be safe for the people working on it and everyone around it
- You must be able to get to and from it safely at all times
- It must be strong enough to take all weight that may be put on it
- It has to be big enough to work from, allowing for all tools and equipment necessary to do the job
- There are special regulations for scaffolds of all types. Never alter a scaffold tower/platform unless you are trained to do so (eg PASMA)
- Good housekeeping and site tidiness are essential to avoid tripping hazards
- Where it is possible to fall from a platform, toe boards and handrails must be fitted together with any intermediate rail
- A risk assessment will be needed for platforms less than 2m high depending on what a person may fall into/onto, for example water
- Any access gate or door should open inwards and be secured
- If the platform cannot be fully enclosed, other means of fall prevention/arrest (eg harnesses) must be used
- Mobile platforms are covered by the same rules plus some of their own. Where they are controlled from the platform, there must be emergency controls at ground level. See separate toolbox talk on use of Mobile Elevated Working Platforms (MEWPs).

**Question time:**

- Q Who can erect a scaffold tower platform?
- Q When must harnesses and lines be used?

**Have you got any questions?**

Record questions on the attendance sheet.

**Safety reminder:**

**Never access a working platform until cleared to do so by your supervisor.**

| Document Reference | Process Parent | Revision Status | Document Owner | Date     | Page   |
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