

MEWP Bucket Levelling Issues

While changing a lantern on a 5m column, the hydraulic hose that controls the levelling of the MEWP bucket failed, which locked the bucket in position. The second person on the ground was able to lower the bucket to ground level and allowed the operative to climb out without harm.

In the event of a bucket levelling issue, the movement of the bucket is demonstrated in the photographs below. The bucket can tilt to the full horizontal position but is designed not to tip any further. It is not designed to tip the operative out of the bucket.

This does not appear in the Versalift operational or instruction manuals for the MEWP but Versalift have advised that this is an extremely rare occurrence.

Note the photos below were from a Versalift training exercise and not in an operational capacity.

SAFETY ALERT



Normal operational position. Operatives should be hooked onto the designated hooking point.



In the event of a hydraulic hose failure, on the bucket MEWP self-leveling mechanism, adopt a crouching position.

Remaining in the crouching position whilst the bucket is moving.



The bucket may return to a full horizontal position. It will not go further than this point.

If the bucket starts to tilt backwards:

- Do not panic, remain calm.
- Adopt a crouching position in the bucket and brace your legs within the bucket.
- Remain clipped onto the designated anchor point.
- If you are a lone worker, you will need to bring the bucket back down to ground level using the bucket controls from your crouched position.
- If you are part of a 2-person crew, the operative on the ground must lower the bucket to a safe position from the alternative controls.
- This will feel very uncomfortable for the operative in the bucket however, the design of the MEWP will not allow the bucket to go past the horizontal position.
- When the bucket is grounded, remove yourself safely and unclip your lanyard.

In the event of any issues relating to the MEWPs a trained authorised technician will be required to investigate and repair. Any faults or issues should be rectified through your Supervisor.

Further training around this emergency rescue issue is being planned and will be rolled out in due course.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact your health and safety manager