



# *Safety Advice 18-2014 (NZ) (Mar)* *(Transmission)*

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Safety Advice 18-2014 courtesy of Northpower and Transpower outlines safety-critical observations and corrective actions where MEWPs for the job had been set up on sloping ground. The full safety advice Follows below

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## Safety Alert

### Near Hit – MEWP set up on sloping ground

Date of issue: 17.03.14

Issued by: Janine Wagstaff

Incident	Description
<i>Date of Event</i>	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2013
<i>Location</i>	Ngaruawahia Bypass 110kV Project
<i>Time</i>	1500
<i>Injuries/Damage sustained</i>	No injuries or damage sustained
<i>Event Description</i>	<p>It was observed that Northpowers MEWP’s had been set up on sloping ground. The outriggers on the down slope had soil built up underneath to enable levelling of the machine.</p> <p>When the structure was erected the Hiab was set up on the flat section and it was thought that this would be the ideal position to set up the EWP. Unfortunately 90% of the work was required to be carried out on the sloping side of the pole and the reach limitations from this position were unattainable. They felt they had made it safe by building it up and using dunnage but had not considered the probability of rain the following day.</p> 
<i>Initial Actions Taken</i>	The site was benched in readiness for work the following day..
<i>Message</i>	<p>Lessons to be taken from this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When it was realised the EWP could not reach the work area from the flat section it was time to step back and reassess the risk and determine the ‘safest’ method to eliminate any potential risk to staff. And this would have been to bench the site to level the ground.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>A stark reminder to us all on the fatality back in 2011 at the Makara Wind farm when one man was killed and another seriously injured after a cherry picker toppled while carrying out lines work .</i></b></p>