

SAFETY ALERT

MEWP STABILISERS ON SOFT GROUND

Review with all employees and have them confirm that they have read and understood its contents by signing the last page.

Date: 29 September 2018

**To: TREE OPERATIONS & ANY MEWP USERS
All Managers, Supervisors, Crew leaders and Field staff**

An Asplundh utility arboricultural crew recently had a Near-Miss where the truck stabiliser sunk into soft ground. This near miss could have had significant consequences as the bucket and boom was fully extended over 11kV wires at the time.

The soft & unstable ground was a result of prolonged rain.

MEWP crews must thoroughly perform the following assessment:

- Inspect ground conditions at position of stabiliser placement, consider ground type, moisture content and compaction.
- Ensure the stabiliser pads are adequate for the ground prior to lowering stabiliser.
- Where required, perform a 'fly-over' to better determine ground stability.

Should the ground conditions be unsafe for MEWP then alternative arrangements should be made such as the deployment of the backyard lift. If the job is non-urgent, then it may be necessary to delay the job until ground conditions are more favourable.

Thank you

The HSEQ Team



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