

SAFETY ALERT – SEPTEMBER 2009

Work Positioning Platform Tipping

INCIDENT

An operative working from a cantilevered Work Positioning Platform (chariot) had finished patching a soffit from an external balcony on the 16th level of a building.

Descending from the platform, he retracted the adjustable props (see photo below) & was checking his work when he noticed he'd missed a spot.

The operative climbed back on the platform without re-fixing the props causing it to tip forward over the balcony handrail.

He had the presence of mind to step back immediately, bracing himself to the soffit; he was also assisted in stabilizing & drawing the platform back by two other operatives working close by.





REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Administrative

- Investigation conducted by both Contexx & Subcontractor involved
- SWMS revised & all affected personnel inducted/trained
- Regulator & relevant industry stakeholders notified

Mechanical

- Chain installed between props so at eye-level when retracted
- Sign attached to chain stating "Danger – Secure Props"
- Prop outers replaced with longer ones to accommodate additional thread –lock pin, ensuring prop inner plate is a maximum 100mm from soffit

CONCLUSION

A potential fatality could have resulted from this incident & reinforces the need for all personnel, management & workers alike, to maintain constant awareness of their work environment.

These types of platforms are widely used in the Building & Construction Industry; Contexx has published this Alert in the interests of better safety outcomes.