



**DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS AND ENERGY
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT REPORT NO. 53

ELEVATED WORK PLATFORM FALLING

INCIDENT

An elevated work platform was attached to the forks of an Integrated Tool carrier in an underground mine. A two man crew, consisting of the IT operator and another worker on the work platform, were hanging drill jumbo trailing cable from the back approximately 3 metres above the floor level. The cable had been suspended from the back on one side of the drive and the IT was being manoeuvred to suspend the remaining portion of the cable when the work platform slid from the forks of the IT and fell to the floor with the worker inside.

CAUSE

The IT has a self levelling mechanism on the lifting arms but the lift and tilt controls are very close together. The operator of the IT intended to lower the lifting arms to manoeuvre the IT and work platform around a ventilation bag to the desired location; however, the tilt mechanism control was inadvertently engaged as well as the lift control. The work platform had not been securely attached to the forks of the IT. Upon inspection, it was found that the attachment device was missing from the platform.

COMMENT AND PREVENTATIVE ACTION

This accident could have been easily avoided by following the mine operating company's standard procedure for such work, which required the platform to be firmly and securely attached to the IT before use.

Procedures for safely working from elevated platforms must include the requirement for a secure attachment of the platform/cage to the lifting equipment. Before use, the platform and attachment mechanism must be inspected for corrosion and mechanical or structural damage. Regular inspections should be made by responsible staff and records of the results of the inspections undertaken and repairs completed should be kept.

Duty of Care provisions of the Mines Regulation Act 1946 include a requirement for safe systems of work to be implemented.

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SAFETY AWARENESS SAVES LIVES