

Safety Devices

Issue date	7 th June 2019
Issued by	Dan Randles, Head of Safety & Policy
Applicable to	All Electricity North West authorised staff and contractors.

During the inspection of a mobile elevating work platform (MEWP) fitted to a Bigtrak, a serious defect and safety hazard was found.



An inspector discovered that the tilt sensor, a critical safety device fitted to prevent overturning during extension of the boom, appeared to have been tampered with in an apparent attempt to override the safety function.

A safety investigation is to take place. However, initial indications are that this critical and potentially lifesaving safety device has been deliberately defeated. Through use of a small piece of cardboard wedged under the sensor, the machine could be used on a surface with a slope greater than its design capabilities and which may cause the machine to overturn.

A full inspection of all machines owned and operated by ENW will be performed to confirm that the tilt sensor is operating fully. **Please note: these devices are fitted for a specific purpose — to keep us safe.**

Key Points to Remember:

1. Staff are reminded that safety devices are installed to keep you and your colleagues safe
2. To interfere with or alter such devices is extremely dangerous and reckless
3. Under no circumstances should safety devices be altered or interfered with
4. Guidance on use of MEWPs can be found in CP430, Pt.1 Mod 255 – WORK AT HEIGHT

