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Industry Launches Best Practices Guide on Workplace Risk Assessment



Four organizations in the aerial work platform (AWP) industry have released a best practices guide for workplace risk assessment and aerial work platform equipment selection.

Working together, the American Rental Association (ARA) [www.ararental.org/], Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) [www.aem.org/], International Powered Access Federation (IPAF) [www.ipaf.org/] and the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) [www.saiaonline.org/] recognized an industry need for help in identifying hazards, guidance for conducting a thorough workplace risk assessment and implementing control measures, as well as assistance in selecting the most appropriate AWP equipment for the project. The industry remains committed to increasing awareness of best practices, clarifying responsibilities and addressing the safe use of AWP equipment, all of which this guide accomplishes.

“The associations continue to work together to promote the safe use of AWP equipment,” said Tony Groat, executive vice president of IPAF’s North American training arm, American Work Platform Training (AWPT). “We created a document that provides simple guidance with four steps that gives us the ability to provide more details than the standard might. It’s simple to follow and well-explained.”

Here are the four steps:

1. Identify the hazards
2. Evaluate the risks, identify who might be harmed and how they might be harmed
3. Define, document and implement control measures
4. Review and update as necessary.

The Statement of Best Practices for Workplace Risk Assessment and Aerial Work Platform Equipment Selection document was unveiled by the participating organizations during The Rental Show, the ARA’s convention and trade show, Feb. 11, 2013 at The Sands Expo and Convention Center in Las Vegas. This document is available as a free download from the website of each participating organization.