

## TECHNOTE: Fall protection in EWP's Blueprint for assessing risks with working in boom type EWP's

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There have been a number of serious incidents with workers falling out of boom type EWP's. A boom type EWP is an unstable platform. In contrast, a scissor lift is stable since it is essentially a mobile scaffold. Workers must use fall protection when working in a boom type EWP.



**Caution:** This technote is not exhaustive. Comprehensive training and assessment is required under the guidance of a suitably qualified and experienced instructor.



### Travel restraint system:

The photo shows a worker using an adjustable lanyard. This allows the worker to shorten its length so that falls can be prevented.

Note that a shock absorber is a requirement to achieve AS 1891.1 conformance. There is a myth that a shock absorber will deploy merely because the worker leans on it – this is completely false. It takes a *significant impact* to initiate deployment of a shock absorber.

By issuing this type of lanyard to workers, supervisors are promoting a culture of *fall prevention*.

### Fall arrest system:

The photo shows a worker using a standard fixed length lanyard. There is nothing the worker can do to shorten its length. There is a risk that the worker can fall out of the cradle. There are a number of scenarios where a worker can fall over the top hand-rail.

Surprisingly, the law is silent on this issue – it is left to the site supervisors to decide on what PPE should be used. PACI does not recommend this type of lanyard in boom type EWP's. By issuing this type of lanyard to workers, supervisors are contributing to a culture of fall-arrest rather than *fall prevention*.