

# The consequences of operating Telehandlers / Rough Terrain Fork Trucks with Man Platforms on inclines, soft ground and unsupported surfaces.



<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/10660/>



The Consequences to the operator and persons in the vicinity of an Rough Terrain Fork Truck (Telehandler ) overturning, or becoming unstable, include the worker becoming trapped in or ejected from the platform, the driver becoming trapped or squashed in the cabin, life threatening injuries and fatalities.

Manufacturers develop **systems in Telehandlers to indicate, alarm, limit and/or prevent operation on inclines**. Manufacturers cannot control the site conditions or the transport procedures for the many varieties of Telehandlers.

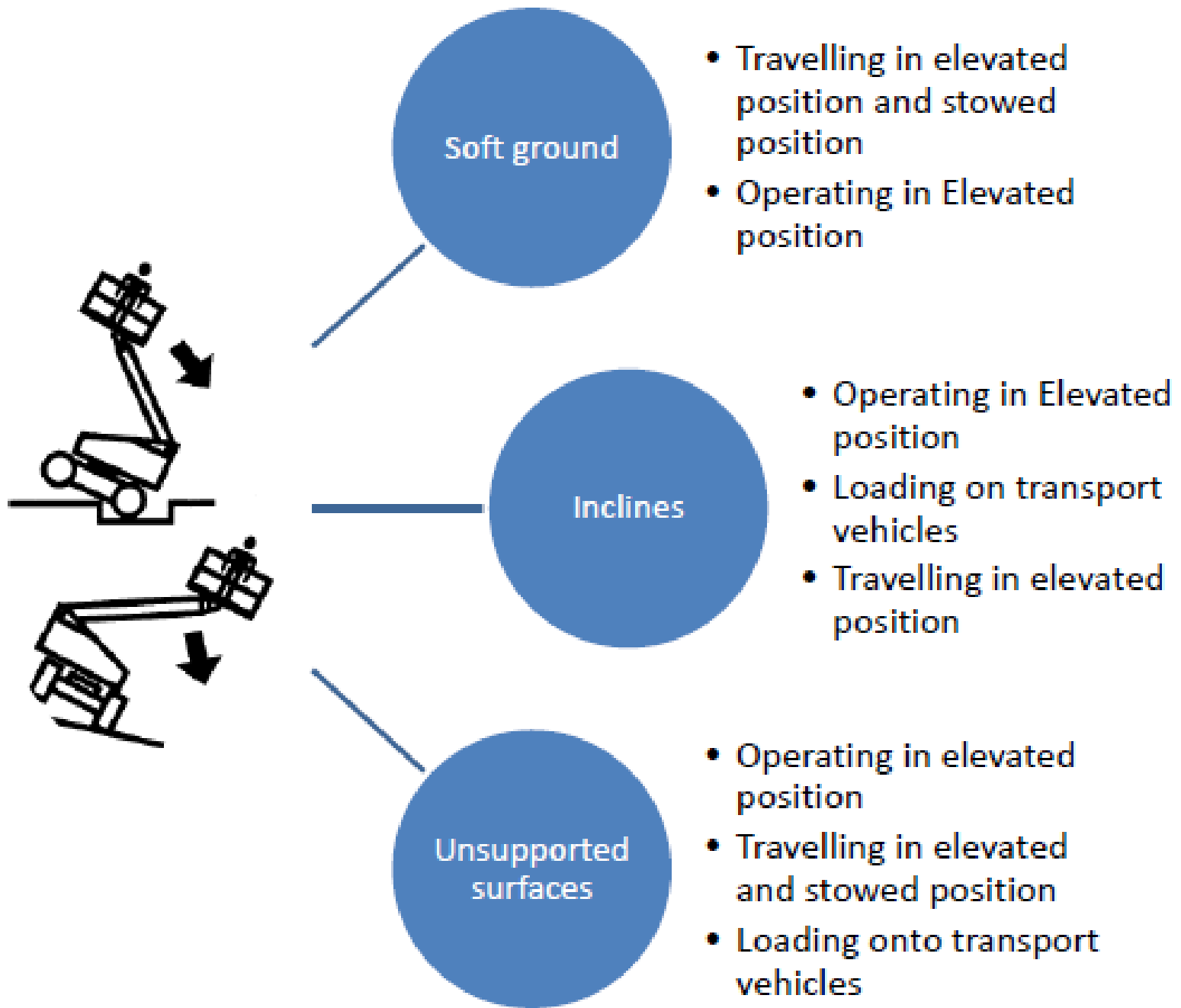
The site conditions and capacity of the support surface, to support the wheel loading of the Telehandler is an **important process required of the controller of the site**. This may result in exclusion zones and the requirements for a structural engineer to assess and report on the ability of the surface to support the load on tyres and where applicable, on outriggers.

Each Telehandler has a wheel loading identification near each wheel. If these are not visible, consult the manufacturer with the model and serial number of the Telehandler to obtain its wheel loading. Do NOT make an educated guess, as the load on the wheel/outrigger increases as the boom extends out past that wheel or outrigger tipping line. **Check the tire pressures.**

Transport procedures and loading onto tilt trucks and low bed loader ramps introduces a new set of risks that needs to be addressed by reference to the Manufacturers transport instructions. **Check the parking brake system.**

OSHA and Manufacturers want the persons using Telehandlers to go home safe at the end of each working day. OSHA recommends that you take notice of manufacturers instructions and your organization can use this enclosed information, **provided from information available in the public domain**, as a reference document indicating what can go wrong. A list of WEB Links to the **Vertikal.net** site is shown on the last page of this presentation.







Spotted in a cemetery in Westonzoyland, Somerset, the tree surgeon has been lifted to a height of four metres by an old telehandler fitted with a bale handling attachment with a wooden pallet placed over the prongs, in order to trim the tops of trees using a small chainsaw. All the while, the telehandler operator/driver appears to have a small child on his lap for the ride

<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/21597/>



A man working on the construction of a bridge using a telehandler fitted with an aerial work platform attachment. Even with a fully extended boom the man has come up short forcing him to place a series of wooden planks across the basket's rails onto the steep embankment in an attempt to fashion a three metre bridge platform approximately 10 metres up.



<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/20974/>



A telehandler lifting a man on the pallet up to the trapped cable. He was simply kneeling and sitting on the pallet with nothing to stop him falling should he lose balance or the pallet slip. The worker is sitting on a pallet with no safety harness whatsoever. The Telehandler doesn't even have its stabilisers down.

Windfarm in Belgium.



<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/19698/>



**In Russia, two men working from a shovel bucket on a telehandler, fixing a large sign.**

**No Harnesses ?**

**Outriggers are down.**



<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/19604/>



The Hampshire farm manager was prosecuted for putting his two employees at risk by using the grain bucket of his telehandler to lift them up to work on the gable end of a barn.

The bucket has no fall protection measures and there is also the risk of being tipped out accidentally.

<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/17196/>





A man in Sunderland changing a bulb in the yard lights, but not in safest manner.

Rather than bother with a proper platform he has decided to stand in the bucket of a telehandler and put himself at the mercy of the operator.



<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/16483/>



In Wensleydale, this telehandler come tearing through the streets coming to a stop on a slope, in a crowded town centre outside a B&B and unceremoniously dumping two men and a roof ladder onto the roof (they didn't seem to use the roof ladder!) via the totally non-compliant man-basket.

<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/16275/>



In Dordrecht, Netherlands, three man work team using a telehandler, putting up what looks like a frame for a sign.

Sitting on the forks.

No harness,

No fall restraint system.



<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/12776/>





The telehandler could not reach and so the operator rigged up some very long steel fork extensions in the form of RSJ/I-beams with some home-made angle iron collars to retain one end of them on the forks. A wooden shipping pallet has then been slipped over the ends of the extensions and nylon web tie down straps used as pendants to support the extensions – they are tied to the top of the fork carriage. No fall protection. No Harness. Wales, UK.



<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/10962/>



This example has the pallet on the forks of a telehandler lifting the man to a platform height of around three metres so that he can fit and adjust the lighting. No fall protection.

<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/10364/>





A large Roto-Telehandler, was set up on outriggers on the grass, but with no spreader plates were used under the outrigger pads. As the machine reached full height the outriggers began to sink, and the machine lost stability and tipped over.

A man died and 11 others were injured at the vintage car rally in Oosterwolde - between Zwolle and Groningen in the Netherlands.

The telehandler, fitted with a large work platform tipped forward while giving a group of children and adults a ride at a height of over 20 metres.



<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/22702/>



A man was seriously injured in West Fargo, North Dakota, when a telehandler fitted with a work platform overturned.

The man in the platform at the time with a load of roof shingles. According to the local police, the telehandler was working on the three storey apartment block and was being moved, when it ran into soft, uneven ground and flipped over sideways.

The man was thrown from the platform – an open front and sided roof platform - on to another telehandler working alongside, with the platform and shingles clattering down on top of him. **Soft Ground.**

**No Fall Protection.**

<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/22677/>



In Hamden, Connecticut, three men fell around six metres and ended up in hospital with serious injuries.

The three, all related, were working on the roof for roof contractor, and were using a pallet on the forks of a telehandler as their method for reaching the roof. They were coming down when the operator appears to have moved the machine at height over a very uneven piece of ground, throwing all three to the ground.

**No Fall Protection.**

**Soft ground**

**Inclined ground**

<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/21941/>





The video begins after the machine, owned by a contractor, complete with work platform has been loaded onto the barge, however the weight has caused the barge to hang up on sea bed.

The crew use a wheeled loader and a timber to assist the tug and push the barge out into deeper water. As soon as the barge has floated it is clear that there is a problem.

And the rest you can see in the video:

[http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=59b\\_1335633237&p=1](http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=59b_1335633237&p=1)

<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/14741/>

[http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=59b\\_1335633237&p=1](http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=59b_1335633237&p=1)





Following the death of a man, who was crushed when a telehandler with work platform overturned.

The machine was being used to carry out line work at the Makara wind farm site near Oteranga Bay on Wellington's south coast. Another man was also injured in the incident.

<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/13700/>

<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/12490/>





Osterville, Massachusetts, USA a telehandler with what appears to be an extended pallet on the forks, being used as a work platform and incorporating a three sided home made wooden roofers guardrail.

A closer look reveals that there is no platform on the forks, it is simply a wooden fork mounted guardrail. It seems that the roofers, working on the village's new fire station, are working from planks fitted to brackets on the roof, possibly snow-dog brackets?

The telehandler is simply placing the guardrail around the workmen at the point where they are working, in order to help prevent them falling.



<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/8086/>



A telehandler fitted with a work platform working with its rear end blocking one lane of a busy highway, with no apparent effort to cordon it off, putting the man in the platform at considerable risk.

Liverpool, UK.



<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/7779/>



In the United Arab Emirates an example of a worker using a basic telescopic handler as a work platform. In this case the man does not even appear to have wasted time to use a pallet or other such item to make standing on the forks easier.



<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/6592/>



Two men died and one was seriously injured on Friday when a telehandler and work platform overturned in Edmond, Oklahoma.

The three men were all in the platform when the unit, which was working on a town house complex, went over. The injured man managed to jump clear of the falling platform.

The platform looks like a very large and the telehandler does not appear to be fitted with stabilisers and the boom was around two thirds extended.



<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/21041/>





A telehandler fitted with a work platform tipped over in Wyanett, to the north of Minneapolis, Minnesota killing one of its occupants. The man was helping erect a mobile phone mast . He was working from a platform fitted to the fully extended boom of the telehandler when it appears to have tipped over sideways.



<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/10660/>



The incident occurred in Great Glen – near Oadby near Wigston near Leicester – on what is supposedly the first all solar powered house in the UK. Two employees of building company Caplin Homes, including Jason Caplin 31, and a 52 year old colleague, had been lifted in a platform attached to the forks of a telehandler, to a height of around four metres (earlier articles suggested six metres) in order to take photographs of the work.

The platform which had not been properly fitted or secured became detached from the forks dropping the two men to the ground. They were then airlifted to hospital with broken bones and other injuries, but both are expected to make a full recovery and be back at within a couple of months or so.

The Health and Safety Executive has launched an investigation and work on The Solar House project has been suspended.

<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/17353/>

A UK building developer, in Stapleford, Nottingham has been fined £10,000 plus £3,000 in prosecution costs after an electrician fell over two metres from a fork mounted work platform.

The driver of the telehandler had not been trained in the correct use of the non integrated platform and had failed to secure it to the forks.

The platform became unstable and fell off of the forks, causing the electrician injuries which left him unable to work for more than eight months.

Those using the platform typically wore a harness, but the telehandler operator was failed to use the retaining pin to prevent the forks from being dropped accidentally.

<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/7565/>

A man who fell about 30 feet as he worked on a farm building has received head injuries, died from his injuries after the machine supporting the platform from which he was working, became unstable and toppled over. The man that died and another man were working on the roof of a building under construction at the time The other man from Hereford, received major leg injuries. The driver of the "Machine" was unhurt.

<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/785/>

The owner of the building company was found guilty and has been convicted of unlawfully killing the worker, who fell around seven metres from a makeshift work platform attached to a telescopic handler on February 28th 2004. See original report March 4th 2004

<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/2061/>

A man was seriously injured in Ontario, Canada, after he was bounced out of a platform on the end of a telehandler.

The incident occurred in Grey Highlands in the north of the province, while the man was working on a barn roof. The local police report that the telehandler rolled backwards and the change of ground conditions caused a catapult effect ejecting the man who was clearly not anchored with a harness and lanyard. We do not know for sure what type of platform was in use, although we have been told it was a simple fork mounted affair.

He fell around nine metres onto the machine, bouncing off and ending up on the ground. He was rushed to hospital, where he remains in a serious, but stable condition.

<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/20469/>





The Queensland Mines Inspectorate has released a safety alert, warning operators of the risks associated with aerial work platform attachments falling from telehandlers or integrated tool carrier type machines.

The inspectorate says that there have been a number of incidents in which the baskets have detached and fallen from machines. The two most recent occurrences were in underground mines, one of which included a fatality while the other seriously injured the two men working in the platform.

The Inspectorate said that the common factor in these incidents was that the machines were fitted with a quick hitch type mechanism which allows for the interchange of components.

These incidents occurred when the manually operated quick hitch mechanisms were not locked in place. It is advising mines to examine the use of man baskets to determine how each is attached to the host machine; review the procedures that control attaching the man basket and ensuring positive locking; and review training materials to ensure that, when lifting personnel, security of the locking mechanism is treated as a critical task.

<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/7735/>

The Irish Health and Safety Authority is investigating the death of a 55-year-old photographer following an accident in Co Cork. While few details have yet been released, we understand that a Telescopic handler fitted with a five metre long home made basket overturned.

The lift was being used by a photographer employed by Roadbridge. He was photographing work at a new roundabout under construction on the new Mitchelstown relief road.

Reports suggest that the telehandlers outriggers had not been set and that the platform was not designed for the machine.

The man died from his injuries late on Monday night.

<http://www.vertikal.net/en/news/story/2606/>

The very information provided in this presentation may save injury or fatality to an operator or a person in the vicinity of a Telehandler with persons elevated on makeshift platforms. It is not just soft ground, inclines, and unsupported surfaces that cause incidents. If the Telehandler does not have manufacturers Load Chart and information about the risks and hazards of using platforms, then DON'T take the risk.

And finally, use a tire pressure gauge (min 100psi truck tire type) and double check the tire pressure before moving, driving, operating the Telehandler.

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