



Survival guide for lift managers and duty holders

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Why?

Some recent cases



HSE Safety Notice 18 June 2012

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/liftingplatforms.htm>

01/05/2019

Vertical lifting platforms or lifts for people with impaired mobility



Vertical lifting platforms or lifts for people with impaired mobility - potential falls from height risks to employees and members of the public from over-riding door locking safety devices

Health and Safety Executive - Safety Notice	
Department Name:	Operational Strategy Division - Public Services
Bulletin No:	OPSTD 2-2012
Issue Date:	18 June 2012
Target Audience:	Health and social care providers ^[1] , NHS Trusts / Boards, hospitals, public buildings, schools, care homes, other Catering and Hospitality ^[2] , Education ^[3] , Entertainment and Leisure ^[4] , Retail ^[5] , Services ^[6] , Transport
Key Issues:	Potential danger from inappropriate use of emergency over-ride devices at the doors of lifting platforms intended for use by people with impaired mobility. Potential for access to be gained to lift well (shaft) when lifting platform/ lift car is at different level. Action required to ensure safe procedures are in place to prevent misuse of landing door unlocking keys except in an emergency situation where access to the lift well is required.

Introduction:

This Safety Notice is aimed at organisations with vertical lifting platforms for people with impaired mobility, or passenger lifts, installed at their premises.

The Safety Notice informs organisations of the risks from over-riding safety devices at landing doors designed to prevent access to lifting platform / lift wells or shafts.

Safety devices are designed to prevent doors from opening when the lifting platform / lift car is not at the correct position at a landing. Opening the doors when the platform / car is not at the landing presents a significant risk of falling from height.

Background:

Care home owners fined £75,000 following death of elderly resident who plunged do... Page 1 of 6

Care home owners fined £75,000 following death of elderly resident who plunged down lift shaft

17/05, 11 AUGUST 2012 BY HILARY PRITCHARD

Couple ordered to pay £100,000 after admitting health and safety breaches

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Shirwan Al-Mufti (left) and his wife Nasik Al-Mufti, owners of Pontecanna House

The owners of a care home where an elderly pensioner plunged down a lift shaft to her death have been ordered to pay £100,000.

05/03/2017

Sentence after historic home butler fatally crushed in lift incident | Media centre - HSE



Sentence after historic home butler fatally crushed in lift incident

Date:

27 February 2017

The operators of one of Britain's most iconic stately homes have been sentenced after a domestic servant was crushed to death by a lift.

Arthur Mellar, 48, a butler at Burghley House in Stamford was killed on 12th July 2014 when a luggage lift descended on him while he was trying to free an item of luggage which had become stuck.

Peterborough Crown Court heard that a luggage lift was being used to lift guests' bags from the ground to second floor in the private area of Burghley House, which has featured in movie adaptations such as The Da Vinci Code and Pride and Prejudice, when one of the bags became jammed and the lift stopped.

At some point, the butler attempted to free the jammed bags but the lift descended on him, trapping him between the lift cage and the bannister of the stairwell housing the lift.

Examination of the lift showed that it had not been fitted with a slack rope detector, and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) prosecuting told the court an assessment on the lift would have shown the lift should have been thoroughly examined and tested. A competent lift engineer should have identified defects with the lift, including a lack of a slack rope detector.

Burghley House Preservation Trust Limited, whose registered office is 61 St Martins, Stamford, Lincolnshire, pleaded guilty to a breach of Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and were today fined £266,000 and ordered to pay costs of £16,863.

Speaking after the sentencing, HSE inspector Alison Ashworth said: "Arthur Mellar was killed when a luggage lift descended on him while he was trying to free an item of luggage. This was a completely avoidable incident, and Burghley House admitted its role in it, but of course that will be little comfort for Mr Mellar's family.

"I would urge any business using lifts, particularly older lifts such as the one in this case, watching this case to ensure correct measures are taken in relation to maintenance of lifts and that competent lift engineers are employed when necessary to identify defects."

<http://press.hse.gov.uk/2017/sentence-after-historic-home-butler-fatally-crushed-in-lift-incident/>

1/2

Telegraph
3469

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Unsafe lift had been in use for 50 years

Burghley House trust fined over death of butler

By Andrew
Dunn, senior
reporter at
the Telegraph

The trust which runs Burghley House in Stamford has been fined £266,000 after its staff used a luggage lift in July 2014.

The Burghley House Preservation Trust, which also owned the property where the butler was killed, was found guilty of failing to ensure the safety of the lift.

With members of the company's family present, the trust was found guilty of failing to ensure the safety of the lift, which was used to transport luggage from the ground to the second floor.

He said: "There should have been a slack rope detector fitted to the lift, and the lift should have been thoroughly examined and tested."

The company was found guilty of failing to ensure the safety of the lift, which was used to transport luggage from the ground to the second floor. The trust was found guilty of failing to ensure the safety of the lift, which was used to transport luggage from the ground to the second floor.



Arthur Mellar and partner Gerrie Castillo

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Health and Safety
Executive

HSE eBulletin

Unlocking Keys for Lifts and Lifting Platforms

There have been several serious accidents, and at least one fatality, related to unauthorised use of unlocking keys for lifts and lifting platforms by untrained persons.

Mis-use of these keys is extremely dangerous. Owners must ensure that unlocking keys are kept securely, and that staff are instructed not to use them unless trained and authorised to do so.

A care home was recently fined after an employee suffered significant injuries when a door safety locking mechanism had been overridden with a screwdriver. In another incident a shop assistant used an unlocking key to open the ground floor landing door of a lifting platform which then descended toward the people in the lift-well. The fatality in South Wales resulted in a significant prosecution, as [reported in the national press](#).

Further information for lift and lifting platform owners is contained on the following Health and Safety Bulletin:

[Vertical lifting platforms or lifts for people with impaired mobility - potential falls from height risks to employees and members of the public from over-riding door locking safety devices](#)

The LEIA (Lift and Escalator Industry Association) website can be accessed [here](#).

HSE Safety alert 18 March 2019

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/platform-lifts.htm>

27/04/2019 Platform Lifts (vertical lifting platforms or lifts for people with impaired mobility). Risk of falls from height to employees/workers and ...



Platform Lifts (vertical lifting platforms or lifts for people with impaired mobility). Risk of falls from height to employees/workers and members of the public.

Health and Safety Executive - Safety alert

Health and Safety Executive - Safety alert	
Department Name:	Operational Strategy Division - Public Services
Bulletin No:	OPSD1 – 2019
Issue Date:	18-03-2019
Target Audience:	Platform lift maintenance companies. Owners and operators of platform lifts in a range of sectors (e.g. health and social care, NHS Trusts, public buildings, schools etc)
Key Issues:	<p>Potential danger from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• inadequate maintenance of door components;• inappropriate adjustment of door locks;• interference with zone bypass switches at doors;• unauthorised access to lift well (shaft) when the lifting platform (lift car) is at a different level <p>Action required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• carry out appropriate levels of maintenance; and• regular safety checks

Introduction:

This Safety Notice is aimed at:

- companies providing maintenance of platform lifts (vertical lifting platforms) and
- owners/operators of such platform lifts used by people with impaired mobility, installed at their premises.

Press report 10 Feb 2017 – fatality at Care Home

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/urmston-care-home-kenneth-bardsley-15484603>

Coroner's Reg 28 letter

HSE prosecuting:

Care home owner

Company undertaking
thorough examinations

Maintenance contractor

27/04/2019

Man, 87, dies after Urmston care home lift collapse - BBC News

Home News Sport Weather iPlayer Sounds

Man, 87, dies after Urmston care home lift collapse

10 February 2017



Police are investigating after an 87-year-old man died when a lift he was using at a care home collapsed.

The unnamed resident died shortly after being injured at Serendipity Care Home in Urmston, Greater Manchester.

Greater Manchester Police and the Health and Safety Executive have launched inquiries.

Families of residents met with managers and the Care Quality Commission to address concerns following the man's death on 30 January.

Det Ch Insp Paul Parker said it would take "some time to establish what caused the lift to collapse".

A spokesperson for Trafford Council said it was helping police in their investigation "as well as supporting the home to manage the needs of the residents during this difficult time".

Related Topics

Recent cases – lessons?

Challenges in managing these assets

- Control and use of unlocking keys
- Inappropriate release procedures
- Managing maintenance contractors
- Managing competent persons
- Interpreting and acting on their reports!

Where to turn to for authoritative advice and guidance?

So what guidance and
help is available?



Benchmarks - hierarchy

Legislation and ACOPs – HASAWA, [PUWER](#), [LOLER](#), [RRO](#)

Codes of Practice & Standards

- BS 7255 - safe working on lifts
- BS 7801 – safe working on escalators
- BS 9102 – safe working on lifting platforms

HSE Guidance, Industry Guidance, such as:

- [HSE Thorough examination and testing of lifts – simple guidance for lift owners](#)
- [SAFed guidance](#)
- [LEIA guidance](#)

LEIA guidance

[LEIA Code of Practice for maintenance LM01](#)

[Lift Safety Recommendations](#)

[Escalator Safety Recommendations](#)

[Use of landing door unlocking keys](#)

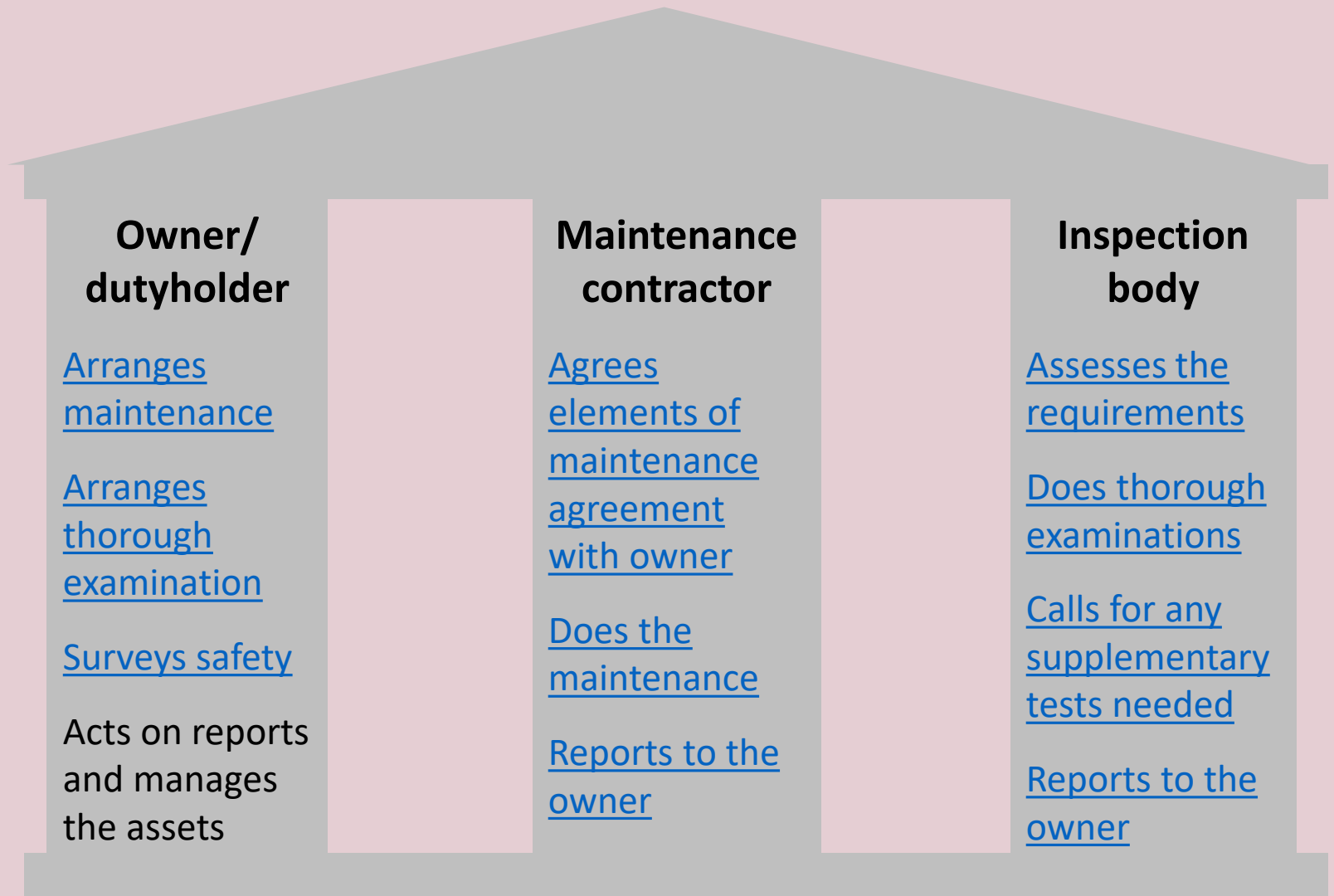
[Release of trapped passengers](#)

[Telephone lines and lifts](#)

[LEIA news and information](#)

What more?

How does it all fit together?



Conclusions

Best practice is for the owner/duty-holder,
maintenance contractor and inspection
body/competent person working together

There is guidance available
how well joined-up is it?

Training resource for owners/duty-holders (and
maintenance contractor and competent person)

Thanks for listening

Have a good exhibition

Nick Mellor

www.leia.co.uk

