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Apprentices graduate

Hewden recently graduated 11 young people from its apprenticeship programme in a ceremony at the new Finning Academy in Cannock. The four-year training programme resulted in an NVQ in Plant Mechanics and the title of qualified Service Engineer.

The ceremony also included the Apprentice of the Year award, given to the one apprentice who clearly excelled throughout the four-year programme. This year's winner was

Mark McLeod from the Edinburgh Cranes depot, nominated by depot manager Jimmy Donnachie.

Donnachie said: "I can confidently say that Mark is the best apprentice I've had in 10 years, there are not many like him. He is a great ambassador for the scheme and an exceptional role model for other apprentices." Hewden currently has 70 apprentices in its programme which includes attendance at the national construction college.



Brian Sherlock (L) presents the top award to Mark McLeod

T H White, the Palfinger loader crane distributor for England and regional Manitou telehandler dealer has graduated nine young employees from its four year apprenticeship programme, one of the longest running in the country.

Two of the nine, Christopher Miles and William Ives are dedicated to loader crane service while the others are assigned to the agricultural and grass care divisions.

Roofer jailed for cutting corners

Steven Christopher Smith, director of Wrexham Roof Services Ltd, Rhostyllen, Wrexham, was jailed for two and a half years at Mold crown court following the death of employee, Paul Christopher Alker, 33, from a fall from height just days after joining the company.

Smith pleaded guilty to manslaughter, a charge under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and a further charge of committing acts intending to pervert the course of justice. HSE inspector Debbie John said it was not acceptable for employers to cut corners by not providing the appropriate equipment for the job. In this case the men were working on the roof and Alker fell through a skylight. "Mr Smith clearly knew that he should have provided safety harnesses for people working on roofs, but chose only to do this after the incident which led to the death of Mr Alker," said John.

Who trained him?

c&a

training



You'd think a fireman would know better! At least he is wearing a harness, but with a lanyard that long he could still come to harm.

When will they ever learn?



Fall costs glazier £5,800

Jaysee Glass and Glazing Ltd of Lye, Stourbridge was fined £4,500 with costs of £1,278 at Dudley Magistrates Court in November. On 5 February 2007, Michael Norton was part of a three-man team replacing vandalised windows a Brierley Hill leisure centre. He was using half of a double ladder set that had been split to allow two men to work at height. The ladders were not secured and the one being used by Norton slid sideways, causing him to fall around two metres to the ground. He fractured his wrist and received a puncture wound to the back of his hand from the glass.

The ladder he was using was damaged, the feet were missing and it was being used without stability devices. The company was aware of the damage to the ladder and lack of

suitable stability equipment. Totally insufficient training was given to employees and, immediately following Norton's fall another employee used the same damaged ladder to complete the job.

"Each year people lose their lives or suffer injury due to failures to provide the right equipment for working at height or maintaining equipment. Underlying this is failure to assess risks, plan for safety or train employees," said HSE inspector, Karl Raw. "In this case, working from an improvised ladder set-up with damaged and inadequate equipment was completely unacceptable. Scaffold towers should have been loaded into the van and used correctly. This would have allowed the work to be completed safely without risk of falls resulting in injury.

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All training centres above offer IPAF approved and audited courses for Operators of Mobile aerial work platforms, European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.

See www.ipaf.org for full listing