

# Letters



## Harnesses inside or outside

I read with interest the letter from one of your readers in the October issue of your magazine concerning whether it was right or wrong to wear a harness under a coat. I could not quite get the point he was making, surely it does not make any difference? Surely the main thing is that people wear them isn't it?

The fact is that putting a harness on and taking it off is still much harder than it should be. I notice that more and more regular users like to keep them on all day as part of their work-clothes even when they are not up in a lift. (There are some who I'm certain wear them for the look or maybe the feel?)

When you are working outside this time of year you need a decent coat. Getting some harnesses over a bulky jacket is not the easiest thing, let me tell you. On top of that taking the harness off every time you come in for a cuppa would be a real pain in the backside. It is just too much effort.

For me wearing it under a bulky coat is best, it feels more comfortable and secure and it is a lot more convenient. I still can't see why that would be a problem?

No name provided, letter postmarked Bristol

## Re: Safety: Subject: Falls, H.S.E. Prosecution

We note in the October 2007 Vol. 9 Issue 7, Page 58 details not one but two deaths caused by falls from heights. In both instances the man or sub-contractors appear to be non-U.K. based.

Would it not be a better idea as against using foreign, probably unskilled, untrained labour, to use Companies like ourselves H&A Height Services, who have been involved in Steeplejack, High Level Abseiling works for some 42 years, the industry being 100 years and some. All our operatives are trained in laddering chimneys, cooling towers etc., to 700' (200 metres) rigging, erecting motorised cradles, bosun's seats, abseiling methods, as are all members of the ATLAS Group i.e. The Association of Technical Lightning and Access Specialists (formally the Steeplejack Federation).

All operatives are C.I.T.B. trained at Bircham Newton (specialist skills centre) for steeplejacks and I.R.A.T.A. trained for rope access.

Regards

I.D. Avey

Senior Contracts Manager

H&A Height Services Ltd, Middlesbrough, Cleveland

## The Editor, Dear Sir,

I work for a Dubai contractor and only heard about this accident from your website, not sure how I missed this one or perhaps accidents, have become commonplace on sites here. This accident is hardly a surprise as the retaining wall on the embankment concerned was poorly and hastily constructed.

A year ago, during the piling stage of an adjacent building, the retaining wall caved in with water pressure and submerged all of the construction equipment. In fact you also covered that incident, although sometime after the event. That 'incident' could easily have killed over a 100 workers if it had not been for the warning signs in the form of noise and sudden leakage as the bank started to go and then some fast work by a few people to evacuate everyone.

The fact is that to keep up with the overall focus on the 'rapid development of Dubai' timely construction even if quality suffers is acceptable here.

It is not all bad. The best contractors here work to world class standards. It is only by exposing the poor practices of those contractors that cut corners that anything will change. Keep up the good work. If you decide to publish this I would rather that you do not use my name for obvious reasons.

Name withheld at contributors request

**This letter/email was prompted by a story concerning the collapse of part of bridge being built into a development at the Dubai Marina, after it was struck by a crane causing part of the embankment fall killing five. Three people, including the crane operator were subsequently arrested.**

## Letters to the editor

Please send letters to the editor: Cranes&Access: PO Box 6998, Brackley NN13 5WY, UK. We reserve the right to edit letters for length. We also point out that letters are the personal views of our readers and not necessarily the views of the Vertical Press Ltd or its staff.