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All training centres above offer IPAF/PASMA approved and audited courses. European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.

Brookes fell from an unsecured ladder while unloading a generator from a flatbed truck



## Fatal loading fall costs £238,030

UK transport company David Watson Transport has been fined £150,000 plus costs of £88,030 after one of its drivers died following a fall in 2012. Keith Brookes, 59, fell three metres from an unsecured ladder while unloading a generator from the back of a flatbed truck at the Hertfordshire Golf and Country Club. He sustained extensive brain damage, a broken cheekbone, collarbone and ribs and was in a coma for four months after slipping while attempting to attach a hook and chain to the eyebolt of the generator. He died two years later, having never recovered from his injuries.

Crown court judge Jonathan Carroll said: "There was no effective plan, only an exercise in ensuring the papers were in place. The total absence of supervision in my view also significantly contributed to a dangerous state of affairs and the death of Mr Brooke."

HSE Inspector Sandra Dias, added: "The risks of falling from height during unloading lorries is well known. David Watson Transport's failure to adequately plan working at height and provide adequate supervision resulted in horrific injuries from which Mr Brookes never recovered."

## Rotten equipment causes death

Scottish scaffold company Extra Access has been fined £40,000 after James Baillie, 53, fell six metres to his death, when a scaffold platform failed while he was working on a two storey property in Thorntonhall, South Lanarkshire in September 2011. Upon inspection, the platform was found to have suffered from excessive decay.

HSE inspector Graeme McMinn, said: "Mr Baillie's tragic death could have been avoided if Extra Access had ensured the scaffold tower platform was properly inspected and maintained or taken out of service. There is no excuse for allowing the use of components that were in such a poor condition."

James Baillie succumbed to his injuries after falling through a rotten scaffold tower deck



## Exiting the platform proves costly

UK glazing specialist London Fenestration Trades and contractor Sir Robert McAlpine have each been fined £200,000 plus costs of £17,790 after a man fell to his death while working on the glass façade of a Debenhams store in Exeter, Devon.

Philip Evans and another man employed by London Fenestration were carrying out repair works to the glass façade above an entrance to the store on the 9th November 2011. They were using a boom lift to reach the work area, but Evans was obliged to climb out of the platform to attach the lower fixings of the panel, while his colleague fitted the top ones from the boom lift.

While carrying out the work Evans walked along the canopy and fell through an opening, dropping over four metres to the ground below. The opening had been created after a pane of glass was removed on a previous repair job and had not been replaced. Evans was seriously injured and died in hospital. An HSE investigation found that a single platform was inadequate for the work and that the glass canopy was not a safe working platform. It was also clear that neither of the two men should have left the safety of the boom lift.

HSE inspector Jonathan Harris said: "The risks associated with work at height are very well known and recognised in readily available guidance. Planning and effective coordination between contractors is a requirement of the relevant safety regulations."

A single platform was clearly inadequate for this job



## Fined for dropped load

Principle contractor Balfour Beatty Regional Construction has been fined £22,000 plus costs of £16,089 after a worker was injured by falling sound bloc boards being lifted by a crane in Branksome, Poole.

The load of 15 sound boards, weighing approximately 550kg, was being lifted from the fourth floor of an apartment block under construction when it snagged on scaffolding, causing the load to fall out of its lifting slings. A man was struck by the falling boards and was knocked unconscious, suffering a broken leg and fractured ribs.

## Who trained them then?

Spotted in Italy, a man demolishing a building using a mini-excavator fitted with a hydraulic drill which has been lifted to a height of five metres by a 360 degree Manitou telehandler.

