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Mike Fenn Mobile: +44 (0) 7980 764021
Email: training@accessplatforms.com
www.accessplatforms.com

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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

Stepladders cost Toyota £28k

Toyota (UK) was fined £25,000 and ordered to pay £3,321 in costs following an accident in which two employees fell from two stepladders after the company pleaded guilty to breaching Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and contravening Regulation 3(1)(a) of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

Paul Gale, of Tutbury and Andrew Tunnickliff, of Stoke on Trent, were working from a pair of 2.5 metre high stepladders fitting a three metre length of steel channel to the underside of a gantry crane when

both fell about two metres to the ground. Gale suffered several injuries including a fractured skull, cheekbone and sinus, fractured right wrist and multiple dislocations to his middle left finger. Tunnickliff escaped injury.

HSE inspector Samantha Farrar said: "Falls from height remains one of the common causes of fatal and major injuries in the workplace. This incident highlights how vital it is for companies to ensure that the risks from such work are suitably assessed and that appropriate work equipment is selected and used."

Inadequate training costs £21,000

Steven Harry Brian Martin, director of SM Coldstores, of Sheldon, Birmingham, was ordered to pay £21,000 in compensation to the widow and child of Nathan Savage by Derby Crown Court. In December, Savage, 39, an employee of SM Coldstores died after falling from a significant height during overnight work at the Eagle Shopping Centre Devonshire Walk, Derby on 10th November 2005. Savage and his brother Lee had been hired by SM Coldstores which was contracted by Carter Retail Equipment to install protective roof panels at the centre during the early hours.

The work was carried out using 'tower scaffolding', Savage had little experience working at height and had not been inducted on to the site. The prosecution claimed that Martin had failed to check that he had an epileptic condition and had not taken out liability insurance. Savage suffered serious head injuries after falling from the tower.

Martin apologised for the circumstances surrounding Savage's death saying that he had 'underestimated the risks they faced'. He added that Carter Retail had initially said it would provide scissor lifts, but when they arrived at the project he was told his firm would have to work with scaffolding.

In sentencing, Judge Burgess said: "Every employer has a duty to look after and protect the people who work for them. There was inadequate supervision or training, particularly for Nathan Savage and his brother. It's plain corners were cut. There is no sum of money that can make up for the loss to his family."

HSE Principal Inspector Samantha Peace added: "These incidents could have been avoided if companies ensured that they had thought through a safe way of tackling the job, selected the right equipment and ensured workers were fully trained."

£5,000 for breaching Work At Height Regulations

Maghull Construction Company of Switch House, Northern Perimeter Road, Bootle was fined £3,000 and ordered to pay £1,908 costs after pleading guilty of breaching the Work at Height Regulations 2005. An HSE inspector visited a Maghull site. The inspector found unsafe work at height practices including inadequate edge

protection and missing guardrails and toe boards. They served a Prohibition Notice which stopped work near open edges until suitable measures to prevent falls were in place. When the inspector revisited the site on 2 November she discovered similar problems and a second Prohibition Notice was served.

C&a

training



Who trained him?

In this example of appalling practice, the company had rented an 80ft boom lift which simply was not high enough to reach the top of the silo, but rather than change the lift the site supervisor told the rigger to use a ladder. When he refused the supervisor himself climbed the ladder to remove the slings from the crane.

Poor lift planning costs McAlpine £52,000

Sir Robert McAlpine Ltd was fined £40,000 and ordered to pay costs of £12,526, at the Old Bailey's Central Criminal Court in December, after pleading guilty to breaching section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. In July 2005 a worker at a construction site in Westminster, London, lost his lower leg after he was trapped by a lamp post knocked over by a mobile crane.

The crane was moved several times during the day and when it was placed in its final position it was

noticed that it could hit a lamp in spite of that no allowances were made for the lamp post. Sadly the crane did strike the lamp post which shattered and fell onto the man whose injuries led to his foot being amputated.

Monica Babb an HSE Inspector said: "Crane operations can present serious risks and it is therefore essential that crane installation is properly planned and implemented. Management systems should be clear so that a safe system of work is employed and incidents such as this are avoided."

Efficient access?

Here is a shot sent us where the equipment is as basic as it gets. Hardly safe, hardly efficient either, taking two employees to do the work of one plus a lift.



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