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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

£5,700 for dropped scaffold pole

Sky Scaffolding (Midlands) Ltd of Budbrooke Road Industrial Estate, Warwick, was fined £4,000 plus costs of £1,761 in late March, after pleading guilty to breaching the Work at Height Regulations 2005 and Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999. The company was charged with not taking suitable and sufficient steps to prevent people from being struck by falling objects. It was also charged with not conducting a suitable and sufficient risk assessment.

Sky had started work erecting a small tube and coupler scaffold on the pavement outside the front of the Metro pub in Coventry city centre on the 18th May last year at 07:30am in order to avoid the peak times for pedestrian traffic, but work was still underway at 9:20 when the incident occurred.

Two qualified scaffolders were working five metres above the ground and one had leant a short steel pole against a guardrail. As he turned away, the pole fell onto a passing pedestrian causing a significant gash to her leg, which required hospital treatment. The pavement had not been closed to pedestrians.

One of the men, working on the pavement and passing poles up to his colleagues, had been tasked with asking pedestrians to wait during movement of materials or when they were being handled overhead, but this was not an easy job for one person, as people were passing in both directions. He said that he had not seen the

injured lady approaching and had not asked her to stop.

The scaffolders had apparently decided to stop work, due to heavy pedestrian traffic and the accident occurred while they were securing materials on the scaffolding. The HSE has warned construction companies and property developers to ensure they operate safe systems when erecting scaffolding and to segregate dangerous overhead activities from the public.

HSE Inspector Carol Southerd said: "The work being undertaken that morning on the pavement, placed pedestrians and workers at risk because the company had failed to take more-robust steps to ensure that the system of work was effective to protect the public from simple human error, such as dropped materials or tools during scaffolding erection."

"All employers have a responsibility to ensure that safe working practices are in place, because failure to do so could well cost lives, as well as



enforcement action from HSE. The injured lady was immobilised for several weeks and still suffers from anxiety but it could have been so much worse if the pole had struck her head or body."

From Gloucestershire to Donegal

Stonehouse, Gloucestershire-based training company C&G Services has just completed a contract to train crane operators at Irish boatbuilder, Mooney boats, of Killybeg, Donegal. C&G crane expert Steve Thorne provided the company's crane operators with advanced instruction in the use of mobile dockside cranes

which it uses in the construction, refurbishment and repair of commercial fishing and oil exploration vessels of up to 800 tonnes.

"Mooney Boats needed a company with experience in these cranes," says Thorne. "They couldn't find what they were looking for in Ireland, so they came to Gloucestershire.

Their operators were already experienced crane users but needed a refresher course to bring them up to speed with technical skills and legal training requirements. For example they have been reliant on the cranes' computers, so I showed them how to use radius charts so that they can still control them should a computer go down."

C&G Services is an industrial skills

and health & safety training provider training more than 7,000 people a year in a range of skills, from mechanical handling to reinstatement of highways. The company works with manufacturing, utilities and construction companies, setting up partnering schemes, designing and delivering specific training programmes for their equipment and working environment.

Who trained him then?

Spotted in Liverpool earlier this month on a Frank Rodgers project for the Liverpool Housing Trust. This telehandler is being used as a work platform, with the rear of the handler in the busy street with no cordoning off and no allowance for pedestrians to pass. In the picture two young girls find their way around the back of the machine - unable to pass any other way.



Safety award for A-Plant

A-Plant, has won the Gold Occupational Health and Safety Award from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) for the second year running. The award will be presented during Safety & Health Expo 2009 at the NEC in May.



The RoSPA Awards are sponsored by NEBOSH (The National Examination Board in Occupational Safety and Health) and recognise the work that goes into reducing the number of accidents and causes of ill-health at work and are awarded to organisations that have excellent health and safety management systems in place.

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