

Are your staff properly trained?

Don't risk it call a certified local company today

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National

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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

AFI adds courses

AFI has received accreditation from the British Ladder Manufacturers' Association (BLMA), enabling the company to introduce a one-day user course on ladders and stepladders. It has also added two additional PASMA alloy tower courses - Low Level Access, covering access products with platform heights of up to 2.5 metres, such as podium steps, folding room scaffolds and wide area low level access towers; and the Supervisor's Access Tower Inspection course, helping delegates understand current safety legislation, inspect erected towers for faults, accurately check components against the manufacturer's instruction manual and be more aware of potential risks and hazards.

Demolition company fined twice in a week

Capitals Demolition (UK) Ltd of Woodham, Surrey pleaded guilty to two separate work at height offences in seven days. The prosecutions arose from site visits in May and June 2006 at Crampshaw Lane, Ashted and Gresham Road, Staines. At the first site the Inspector found that necessary precautions had not been taken to prevent falls through fragile asbestos cement sheets and the site had not been properly fenced to prevent risks to the public. The company was fined a total of £11,000 and HSE costs of £5,861 were awarded. In a second visit to a Capital Demolition site in Staines the HSE found employees working from an unsafe working platform and at a clear risk of falling from a height of around four metres. The company pleaded guilty to the offence and was fined £10,000 plus costs of £4,295.

Harness saves life

Roger Gunnoe, 35, an employee of Cheney Electric in Wichita Falls, Texas is alive today thanks to the fact that he put his harness on and connected it to the platform he was using before starting work. Gunnoe was using a truck mounted lift to change light bulbs at the Henderson district baseball ground. He was halfway between two electricity poles at a height of between seven and nine metres when he brushed against a 7,200 volt power line which threw him from the basket of the platform. The lanyard appears to have caught him and prevented him falling to the ground. He is set to make a full recovery.

C&a

training



Talk about a total lack of training... you will run out of fingers counting the misdemeanours here. From totally unacceptable access equipment to the inventive load slinging.

How is this for a blend of powered non-powered access?



What risk assessment?

In May, a loader crane dropped a portable police community centre in Hessle road, Hull after the lifting chains broke. Contractors were asked to pick up and relocate the container.

Unfortunately, because of overhead trees restricting headroom, the crane operator over shortened the chain legs, exceeding 45 degree angle, causing excessive lateral forces. Fortunately the only injury this time was to the operator's reputation and that of the crane owner, A. Rhodes of York a

respected loader crane operator which prides itself on its professional approach. Was the operator trained on proper slinging and rigging?

Knowledge of slinging might have avoided this accident.



Makeshift platform costs developer £20,000

Redwall Developments of Dinnington Business Centre, Sheffield was fined £20,000 plus costs of £686 after two joiners were found fitting windows from a pallet on the forks of a telehandler. The makeshift work platform was being used to reach the second floor of a building around eight metres high. A Prohibition Notice was served - the 11th notice served on Redwall Developments for breaches to health and safety rules.

National



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