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There appears to have been a resurgence lately of accidents involving poor outrigger cribbing or even, (mostly in the USA) the omission to set outriggers at all. Proper set up of outriggers is critical for all cranes or platforms equipped with them.

Spider tips in Newbury

One such incident involved an Italmec Ragno R16 which was being used by Phil Cantrey, an employee of J.P. Hardy Forestry, to trim trees when the ground beneath one of the outriggers gave way creating enough momentum for the boom to tip. John Hardy the owner of J.P. Hardy tree surgeons said that while he had not been on site when the accident occurred it was clear what had happened. The local police arrived with the ambulance and initially treated the area as a crime scene. The Health & Safety Executive was also

called to conduct an investigation. On the surface of it the operator had set his outriggers right on the edge of a brick paved drive, the outrigger pad - metal on stone - slipped into the adjacent flower border.

While it looked like an outrigger problem, this lift is fitted with switches to limit the outreach to just over six metres. The unit was at the very least working at the extreme of its outreach. It might have been a tip that then set off the outrigger collapse. A properly trained operator would never have set up so close to a loose edge and would have use a wood or polypropylene outrigger mats.

c&a training

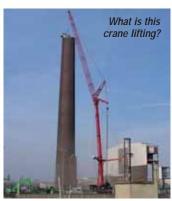




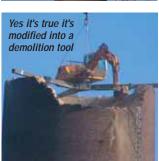
Photos published courtesy of the Newbury Weekly News

How's this for good practice?

We were sent these pictures of how or how not to demolish a chimney stack, it might be argued that this is a safe and considered way to do the job, however it certainly looks dodgy. We would be interested to hear views from those readers who are demolition contractors.







MEWPs for Managers

Facelift Access Hire is the latest IPAF training centre to offer the federations new MEWPS for Managers course. This is a one day professional training course which gives managers the knowledge and confidence they need to deal with the constantly changing demands related to working at height on site and the use of Mobile Elevating Work Platforms.

There are certain statutory duties that apply to practically all managers where employees work at height. These are based on the fact that employers and or managers are the ones in control of the business. They have the ability to prevent most accidents. Likewise, acts and omissions at this level are likely to be the cause of accidents.

The course has been designed in response to continual requests for advice on subjects such as responsibilities, role of operator

training, legislation, organisation and planning, use of safety harness, platform safety and Implications of the Working At Height Regulations.

It also incorporates the following general areas.

- 1. Organise the work so that it is safe
- 2. Appoint Competent Persons
- 3. Provide adequate supervision
- 4. Provide information, relevant instruction and training
- 5. Monitor and review health and safety performance

To sum up you have to ask yourself the question 'Am I, as a manager, comfortable with these important matters, up to date and wholly happy with my responsibilities whilst in charge of MEWPs on site, and the women or men who operate them?

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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