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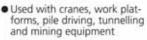
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Safety Safety Bradgate Containers Ltd of Leicester Road, Shepshed, was hit with £11.600 of fines. compensation and costs for contravening the work Davs

Every month we receive numerous examples of the massive cost of cutting corners, whether it be with make do access equipment, avoiding the cost of proper training or just plain sloppiness and lack of planning. The real costs in these cases cannot be measured in money terms; it is the number of lives that are destroyed in what is almost always an easily avoidable accident.

Electrocution avoidable

Guy Leasing Ltd of Kensington Road, Southport was fined £8,000 while self employed James Walsh of Aspen Close, Shevington Park, Kirkby was fined £4,000, following the death of 48 year old Robert Davies. The two were also ordered to pay £5,245 in costs. Davies was employed by Guy Leasing and worked alone repairing and refurbishing portable cabins at Guys Industrial Estate in Burscough, Lancashire. On the 19th August 2005 a cabin that had been sold was being collected from the site by James Walsh.

Walsh had already lifted the cabin onto his truck using its articulated loader crane and was in the process of stowing the crane when it came into contact with an overhead high voltage cable. Davies was stowing

an aluminium ladder on the truck as the crane boom touched the cable, electrocuting him.

HSE inspector Michael Clarke, who investigated the incident, said: "Operators of vehicle mounted cranes must not take chances when required to work near overhead high voltage cables. They must make sure that the cables are not live or where that is not possible take extra precautions to prevent contact with them. Furthermore, occupiers of sites with overhead electricity cables must take appropriate measures to control lifting activities and prevent inadvertent contact with them. The tragic death of Mr Davies was avoidable." Guy Leasing and James Walsh had pleaded guilty to three criminal charges brought by the HSE.



£11,600 of fines, compensation and costs for contravening the work at height rules after an employee fell off a ladder late last year. Welder Richard Brooks, 59, sustained severe head injuries when he landed on the concrete yard surface on 18 September 2006. His fall involved an unsecured aluminium ladder, which was being used as a working place for welding during the building of large shipping containers for generators and other equipment. Roger Amery, HSE Inspector, who prosecuted said: "These injuries could so easily have been avoided. Health and safety law is not about doing unnecessary stuff; it is about being wise before the event and prioritising risk control effort on the issues that really matter. This is a good firm and an important local manufacturer, but they just didn't have their eye on the ball. The sad consequence was damage to Mr Brooks' brain, a period of great distress for his family and an upsetting time for his workmates at Bradgates; along with harm to this company's reputation. The accident was typical of the type of preventable falls which remain all too common. Had there been a proper plan for this manufacturing work and had good access equipment been in place then this accident would not have happened. An untied aluminium ladder resting on a metal edge is a recipe for disaster. Employers and employees must work together in order to stamp out this sort of thing."



The HSE has been holding a number of safety days around the country for farmers focusing on safe work at height. The days have included demonstrations, using dummies, on the dangers of using telehandlers as makeshift work platforms.



Wedewood fall costs £108,000

Hough Engineering Ltd of Silverdale, Newcastle under Lyme, was fined £20,000 with costs of £10,000 in March following an accident in 2003. The accident resulted in employee Andrew Cotton falling more than six metres through a fragile skylight sustaining serious injuries including multiple fractures. Josiah Wedgwood and Sons Ltd was also prosecuted and fined £60,000 and costs of £17,837 for contracting Hough Engineering to undertake work to a warehouse and then failing to control the contractor at the remote site.

The HSE said: "Falls from height usually occur as a result of poor management control rather than equipment failure. On this occasion the roof repair activity was allowed to commence without the provision of any precautions, such as using safety nets or platforms, which would have prevented the fall."

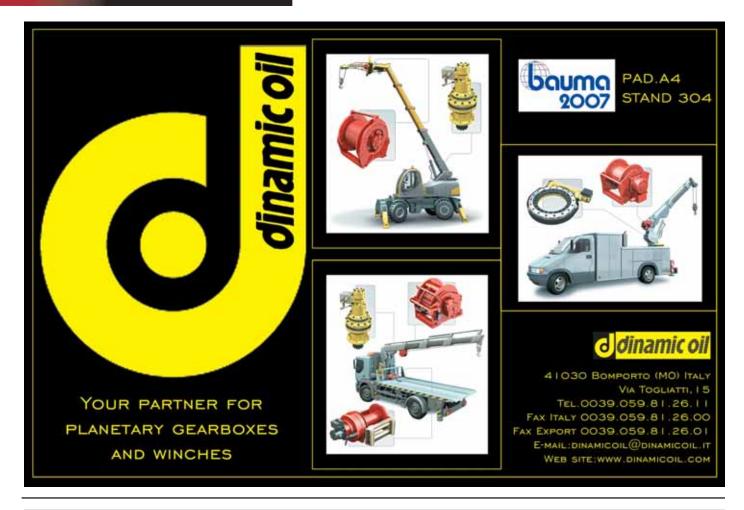
Tragic acccident

Builder Michael Tony Mortimer of Merry Lees, Thornton near Coalville was fined £50,000 with costs of £43,881 in March after a scaffold tower fell over at a home extension in Cossington on 11th April 2003, killing Daniel Leighton, 30, a bricklayer from North Leicester.

Leicestershire HSE principal inspector Steve Spence said: "This was a tragic accident which killed a young man. It was entirely preventable had the scaffold tower been properly set up and maintained. Every year people working at height lose their lives or suffer serious injury and firms need to exercise sufficient control to prevent this sort of thing happening - including carrying out a proper risk assessment."

Mortimer had already pleaded guilty to, and was sentenced for, contravening the Health and Safety at Work Act - the incident predated the work at height act.

safety





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