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All training centres above offer IPAF/PASMA approved and audited courses. European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.

# £6,000 for lack of training

A farmer has been fined £6,000 after admitting breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act. Pamela Greenslade, 76, owner of the Fernicaps Farm, in Wiveliscombe, Taunton, was using a telehandler to move silage bales from yard to cattle shed. She had asked her neighbour John Morrish, 49, to help remove plastic wrapping from the bales but as he was cutting the packaging of the final bale - still held by the telehandler - the machine lurched forward crushing him against a feed barrier. He suffered serious injuries including several broken ribs and a punctured lung. An investigation revealed that Greenslade had no official training to operate the telehandler, which was normally operated by a trained farm worker, who was not working that day.

## Fork truck and platform accident costs £44,000

Two companies have been fined following an accident in which an 18 year old trainee electrician suffered severe injuries after a the fork truck he was working from flipped over at a warehouse near Plymouth, UK.

Davis and a young colleague employed by Plymouth based CL Electrical Solutions Ltd were replacing light bulbs at the premises of HT Gardner Distribution Ltd in Plympton. HT Gardner provided the two with a forklift for which neither had received any training, though the firm's own instructions state that only trained drivers should use forklifts. It also provided a fork mounted work platform that was unsuitable for the task.

Davis, was lifted in the platform to a height of around six metres and was changing blown bulbs in the roof lights. His colleague drove the fork lift between lights with the platform elevated. During a 'relocation' the forklift overturned as it completed a tight turn, slamming the cage into the floor and narrowly missing a pillar. Davis fractured his pelvis in two places, suffered facial injuries that required stitches, a broken front tooth and lacerations to his elbow.

Both companies were prosecuted by the HSE. HT Gardner was fined £20,000 plus costs of £11,300, while CL Electrical was fined £7,000 with £5,000 costs.

HSE inspector, Helena Allum, said: "Changing light bulbs is such a common job the safety implications can be overlooked, but in high roofed workplaces, falls from height are a very real and serious risk. This job was not properly risk assessed and as a result both companies chose the wrong equipment for the job and came up with a loose system of work.

The two young trainees, inexperienced in work at height and not trained to use a forklift, were then left to get on with it. Any work at height needs to be properly planned, the right equipment chosen and workers given sufficient training to do the job correctly."



### Safety quote of the month

"Faith is not about everything turning out OK, faith is being OK no matter how things turn out." *Luke Viguers, KDL, Grand Prairie, Texas*



## Fatal fall may be related to training or supervision

A judge has delayed a verdict on a 2009 accident at Calgary Airport in which a man fell from a de-icing platform. Murgappa Naiker, 52, fell to his death from the de-icing machine while working on an aircraft at the Airport on December 21st, 2009, he was not wearing a harness or lanyard.

Naiker died from head injuries having fallen 5.7 metres on to the tarmac. His employer Servisair, faces three charges under Canada's Labour Code alleging failure to ensure the health and safety of its employee. A key fact is whether Naiker received sufficient training to prevent the accident from happening. Company records showed that Naiker had 17 years' experience and had de-iced aircraft on 390 occasions in the year prior to the accident. He fell while de-icing the first aircraft of the day and was not wearing his harness and lanyard, contrary to Servisair's safe work policies, practices and procedures and contrary to the training he had received. The platform gate was open at the time.

The final decision hinges on a question of supervision. The company says that it is unreasonable to have supervisors present at all times to watch highly trained and experienced employees do their work. However Naiker had been caught not wearing his harness on at least one previous occasion, he was warned verbally and seemed to comply after that. However he had not received a written warning, nor had the incident been reported to the company's training officer.



## Who trained him then?

Not sure where this was or when, but it was sent to us by several readers. It certainly looks British and he certainly hasn't benefited from any training he may or may not have received.