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£41,000 for dropped AC unit

Concentra Ltd of Waltham Cross, UK was given £41,000 in fines and costs after a woman was seriously injured by a falling air conditioning unit as she waited for a bus in London SE1, in September 2008.

The two metre unit, weighing 380kg, was being lifted into place by a tower crane, on an office refurbishment job and was not properly slung. It struck a mastclimber causing the unit to slip from its slings and drop onto the woman who suffered severe multiple injuries including several broken bones and cuts and swelling to her head. She was in hospital for eight days and the injuries have affected her work and studies. HSE Inspector Bose

Ogunsekan said: "Concentra failed in its duty to manage the safety of persons affected by its activities. A high risk activity such as using a crane to lift this sort of load on the site should have been fully risk assessed during the planning stages. In addition, further measures to protect the public, such as an alternative pedestrian route and temporary bus stop elsewhere, could have prevented injuries to passers by." Concentra was fined £20,000, plus costs of £21,000.

Girls day at Deutz

As part of its campaign to bring more women into engineering, Deutz diesel invited young women to visit its training centre in Cologne, Germany on April 28th for hands-on experience with technology and find out about skilled occupations open to them. The visit included an information bus run by the metalworking and electrical engineering employer's association, equipped with machines and control units. Deutz director Margarete Haase said: "We want to make engineering jobs at Deutz more accessible to young women and show them how exciting work at an engineering company can be for girls. Women are still under-represented in this sector, which is why it is important for us to continue training female staff to a high level."

Platform safety awareness day in UAE

In late March Manlift Middle East held an on-site safety awareness day for the contractors and sub-contractors working on the Ritz Carlton hotel project in Abu Dhabi. The workshop - part of The Habtoor Leighton Group's site safety week - is part of an on-going effort to increase awareness of the need for training in the Middle East construction sector. Nearly 4,000 are working on the hotel, with around 200 of them regularly

working at height. Manlift ran two stage interactive workshops for groups of 30 lasting roughly an hour and supported by a bilingual translator.

Whilst the demonstration was not official training, attendees went away with basic knowledge, including bringing a platform down safely in the event of an emergency rescue and the importance of harnesses in booms.



Part of Manlift's site safety awareness day



The telehandler and platform shortly after the incident

Poor telehandler platform costs

Reinforcing bar manufacturer EDV Reinforcements Ltd of Preston, UK was fined £10,500 after a work platform slid from the forks of a telehandler striking a man in January 2011. HSE investigators found the platform was simply resting on the forks, while the telehandler was being used to lift steel reinforcing sheets.

The falling platform struck an employee, 50, fracturing a rib and causing back injuries. The standards for non-integrated work platforms on forklifts are set out in HSE Guidance Note PM28 and require platforms to be positively locked onto the forks. EDV pleaded guilty to failing to ensure the safety of its employees and was fined

£7,000 plus costs of £3,566.

HSE inspector Richard Clarke said: "EDV should never have allowed the platform to be lifted without being properly secured. Sadly, one of its employees suffered serious injuries as a result of this negligence it was an incident that could easily have been avoided."

Who trained him then?



The old pallet and forklift routine, spotted in use installing a new sign at a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet in Inverness, Scotland in December. The crew had a scaffold tower on their van but clearly thought that this rudimentary form of powered access was quicker and worth the risk?