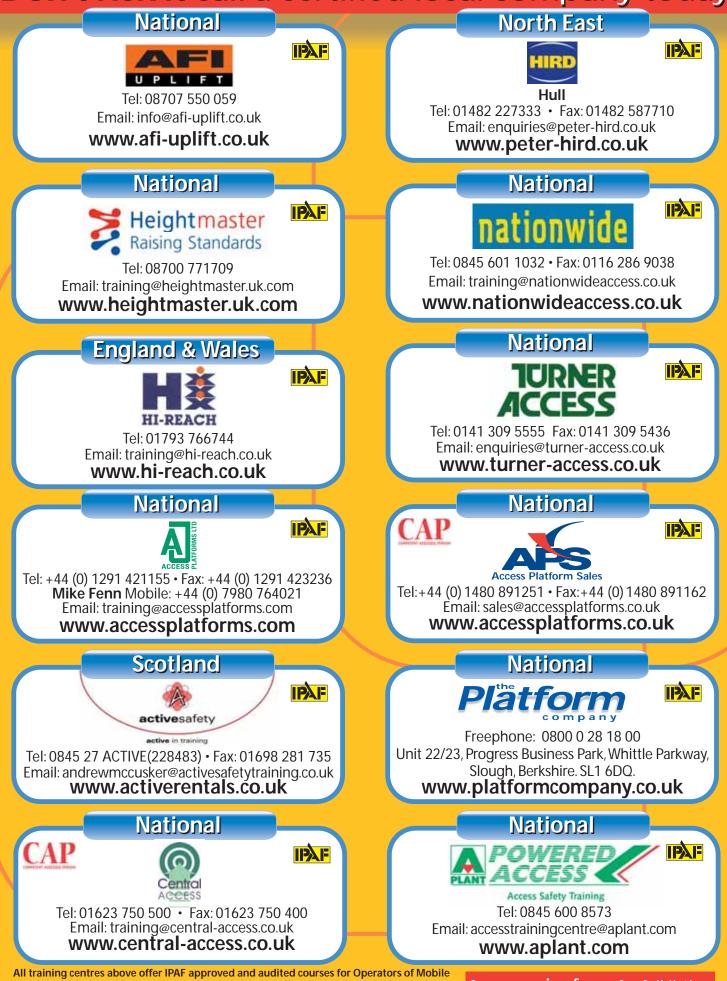
Are your staff properly trained?

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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

Proof of training required for Government sites

The Office of Government Commerce, an independent office of the UK Treasury, has issued a new 'Common Minimum Standards' document as a guidance for public bodies and contractors working on publicly funded projects. The document includes a clause that says: 'Clients are to include a contract clause requiring that all members of their supply teams who are workers on or regular visitors to a construction site, are registered on the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) or are able to prove competence in some other appropriate way'.

(See vertikal.net Oct 28th for full story)

£6,000 bill for Lotus

Lotus Construction of Otley, West Yorkshire, was fined £5,000 with £1,643 costs and compensation, after a 17 year old sub contract plasterer was injured from a 2.4 metre fall. Richard Green had been working on the first floor level of an extension to RC Jones motor bodies, in Barugh Green, Barnsley. The platform he was working from had no rear guardrails so that when he inadvertently stepped back he fell to the ground below.

Lotus pleaded guilty to the charges of contravening section 3(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 for failing to provide a safe system of work on the project. HSE's Inspector Mark Gough said: "Falling is the biggest cause of workplace fatalities. Sixty percent of the 3,700 injuries come as a result of working at below head height. Yet falls are preventable when work is planned properly, the risks are accurately assessed, and the correct equipment is used. Had this happened in this case the young man involved would have avoided injury."

MD fined £10,000 plus costs

David Rose, managing director of Portal Power, a producer of steel frame buildings, was fined £10,000 plus £607 costs and £4,000 compensation, after an employee suffered serious injuries from a fall. Steven Edkins, 19, had joined Portal only three days before the incident after a 10 minute interview. He was put straight to work, joining a team of workers dismantling a warehouse in Sommers Road, Rugby.

Whilst removing the roof on 7th September 2005 he fell seven metres onto the concrete floor below. The impact shattered his cheekbone, broke his jaw and right wrist, he also bruised his lung and ruptured a blood vessel in his eye. He said: "I remember hearing a crunch below my feet and then falling. I was desperately trying to grab onto anything and everything I could. I remember spinning round and the floor coming at me quite quickly - then it all went dark".

Edkins continued: "I was in enormous pain and thought I was going to die. I could see my hand wasn't attached to my wrist. I couldn't see out of my eye and my lung was burning and I felt the blood all over me." He was taken by air ambulance to Walsgrave Hospital, where he spent more than a week, followed by a nine months in recovery. He said: "My dignity was completely removed from me. I went from being completely fit and healthy to somebody asking my brother if he could wash under my arms for me."

At the hearing Rose, who had pleaded guilty to a breach of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, and said in mitigation that he had introduced strict new safety guidelines for workers to follow on his sites.

IP



training

Three's a crowd

One of our readers spotted this event crew all wearing full body harnesses, and one even has a hard hat on. However what they seem to have overlooked is that they are overloading the platform. The JLG400A has a two man, 230kg lift capacity. While these are not the fattest or tallest of operators they were also lifting materials.

HSE stops work

In early November HSE inspectors visited 56 sites in Hull and stopped work on 24 occasions because people were at risk of sustaining serious, if not fatal, injuries. Most were linked to poor work at height practices and equipment.

Harnesses saves lives

A prison van ran into a JLG600AJ boom lift in central London in November, causing the typical catapult conditions that can easily kill. This time though, the two men in the platform were wearing harnesses and short lanyards and remained safely in the basket, sustaining nothing worse than bruises.

(see vertikal.net for full story)

Use your head

How's this for a technique? Spotted by another reader here are two men fully kitted out with helmets, yellow vests, boots and full body harnesses first rate... however we do question the length of one man's lanyard, standing on the mid-rail and pushing, if by chance the boom had moved he would have been hanging over the side. Still at least he is wearing the right gear.



Scotland



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