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NPORS **CP CONSTRUCTION PLANT CS COMPETENCE SCHEME** **PASMA** **IPAF**

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.



Loader crane driver charged £2,000

Loader crane driver/operator Wayne Ford has been charged £2,000 in fines and costs after the crane he was operating in Bryntirion, Mountain Ash, Wales last August overturned while unloading scaffold materials. Martin Sapec, 54, was standing on the truck bed at the time and was thrown to the ground as it overturned. The falling load landed on top of him, compounding his injuries which included a broken pelvis and ankle. Ford had deployed the outrigger jacks but not extended the beams resulting in insufficient stability for the load he was lifting, causing the truck to overturn.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive determined that Ford was responsible for the truck, and was at fault for not using the crane in the correct, safe manner. Ford pleaded guilty and was fined £1,000 plus a further £1,000 in costs. HSE Inspector David Kirkpatrick said: "Mr Sapec sustained serious injuries in this incident, and could easily have been crushed and killed. Operators of vehicle mounted cranes must ensure the safety of people they are working with by using the equipment in the proper manner. Had the extending outriggers been used for their intended purpose the incident could have been avoided. It was wholly preventable on that basis."



\$13,500 fine for tree pruner

A man, Gerald Shields, has been fined A\$12,000 plus A\$1,400 in costs following an incident while pruning trees in Myaree, Western Australia. He and an employee were working from a fully extended truck mounted aerial lift, but as they lowered the lower boom, one of the front outriggers sank into a soak well. The machine overturned and the men were thrown from the platform onto the roof of a nearby building. Shields suffered minor scalp injuries, but his employee suffered injuries to his right wrist and forearm.

No outrigger mats or harnesses had been used and the outrigger safety interlock switch had been interfered with, allowing the boom to be elevated without the stabilisers being deployed. Shields, pleaded guilty to failing to provide and maintain a safe work environment while pruning the tree for the Department of Housing and Works in May 2012. An adequate pre-start check had not been carried out, the interlock switch was taped down and one of the controls had been replaced with a hammer.

WorkSafe WA Commissioner Lex McCulloch said: "This employer seems to have had absolutely no regard for his own safety or that of his employees. There have been many instances in WA of lifts tipping over, resulting in serious and critical injuries and deaths. There were no safe systems of work in place for the operation of the lift or for the protection of the employees."

Poor work at height practice costs £5,000

A self-employed demolition contractor has been fined after members of the public reported workers operating unsafely on the roof of a pub during its demolition. Colin Rogers, 59, trading as Central Demolition & Salvage Specialists, was the principal contractor at the former Jolly Colliers pub in Ripley, England in May 2011. The Health and Safety Executive received complaints from three members of the public, one of whom took photographs of the unsafe work. They showed workers on the roof of the two-storey building without any measures to prevent them from falling. As a result, the HSE gave Rogers advice on safe working at height, however, during a follow-up visit, the unsafe practices were still taking place.

Rogers was fined £2,500 plus costs of £2,500 after he admitted breaching the Safety at Work Act. HSE Inspector Lee Greatorex said: "The dangers that the workers faced were so great and so obvious that members of the public took the trouble to contact us with their concerns. Colin Rogers blatantly ignored HSE advice leaving a worker at the site exposed to an unnecessary risk of a serious or even fatal injury. Demolition and work at height are high risk activities. There is a need to adequately plan for such work and ensure those plans are fully implemented and monitored effectively."

AJ Access opens indoor training centre

UK-based AJ Access has fully refurbished premises it owns in Caldicot, South Wales - close to the Severn Bridge - converting them into a new IPAF/PASMA training centre complete with an indoor area for practical, hands-on training. See www.vertikal.net for full story.



Who trained him then?



Snapped in Poland earlier this year - two men using a loader crane and harness to work on overhead cables. It is hard to know where they train to do it this way