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Delivery drivers at risk

Target your delivery drivers for training and safety initiatives on the safe and effective use of aerial work platforms. Watch out for slips/trips/falls, and pay attention to manual handling. These were some of the initial findings following the commitment by IPAF rental company members in the UK to report any known accidents involving their staff via the IPAF accident database. The findings were announced at Vertikal Days, Haydock Park, where the IPAF stand featured demonstrations on the safe loading and unloading of work platforms.

A total of 303 aerial lift-related incidents were reported by IPAF UK rental company members involving their employees and those of their customers in the 15 months to the end of April. Of these incidents, 46.2 percent (140) resulted in injury, 43.2 percent (131) resulted in damage, and 10.6 percent (32) were near misses. Loading and unloading is potentially one of the most dangerous activities, and is an area that IPAF is focusing on. About a third of the incidents involved drivers (104). Other incidents involved engineers (25.1%/76), customers (22.4%/68) and operators (18.2%/55).

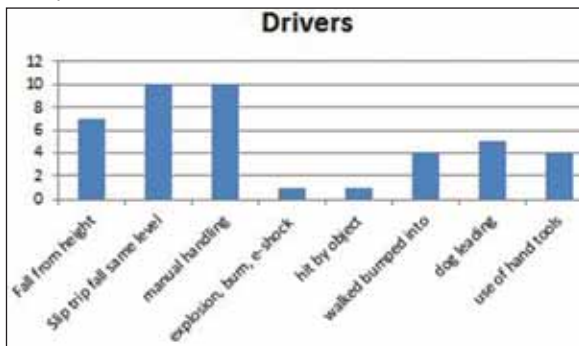
Closer analysis of the 140 incidents resulting in injury reveals certain patterns. The main causes of injuries were: slips/trips/falls at the same level (23.6%/33), manual handling (16.4%/23) and use of hand tools (15%/21). Further down the list were: stranded in equipment (10%/14), fall from height (7.1%/10), walked/bumped into equipment (6.4%/9) and injury while using the upper controls of a scissor lift while walking beside the machine, sometimes referred to as dog leading (6.4%/9).

Almost 95 of a total of 125 IPAF UK member rental companies have registered to report incidents. Those who commit to report and sign off monthly get access to a dashboard that shows their

company's incident figures against the national average, a major benefit for health and safety benchmarking. IPAF technical officer Chris Wraith said: "It is interesting to see that the initial data has produced no real surprises. The industry is aware of the hazards and risks rental company employees are exposed to, including dog leading, falls from the truck body, slips/trips etc. With this factual data, IPAF can do more to create greater awareness and support its members in reducing the frequency and severity of such incidents. Through focused safety campaigns, we can help drive behavioural change and improve safety throughout the rental industry."

IPAF chief executive Tim Whiteman added: "The findings are groundbreaking. Credit is due to IPAF's UK member rental companies for committing to report any known accidents involving their staff, and to the combined efforts of the IPAF UK Country Council in championing this project. We are hoping to start similar initiatives in other countries."

To register and to report an aerial lift or mastclimber accident go to www.ipaf.org/accident



Have you been surveyed?

IPAF members in the UK and Ireland are invited to complete a member satisfaction survey to help the federation become a better association for its members. For more information or the link to take the online survey, e-mail info@ipaf.org



Member event combines learning and fun

The IPAF Professional Development and Banger Racing Day, specially organised for UK members, will be held on 6th September in Northampton. There will be educational sessions in the morning and banger racing in the afternoon. Members can either rent a car to race or build their own. Refreshments will be provided during the day, including lunch and a barbeque supper in the evening.

Details at www.ipaf.org/events

IPAF's Linda Davey retires

Linda Davey, IPAF publications & despatch, retired at the end of June having completed 16 years of dedicated service. During her time at IPAF, she has been responsible for the despatch of safety and training material to members and training centres, around the world, always meticulously ensuring that parcels were securely packed and that couriers had all the correct details to ensure prompt delivery.



Linda Davey

IPAF chief executive Tim Whiteman said: "Linda has almost single-handedly ensured that IPAF training and safety material has reached companies in pristine condition in locations all around the world. Many thanks, Linda, from all our members everywhere for your dedication in getting the job done."

"I feel very proud to have been involved with IPAF in the early days," said Davey. "In recent times it has been challenging, but also very enjoyable. I still love this type of work."

Christine Park from the training administration team will now assist with publications despatch.

PDS dates

The IPAF Professional Development Seminars for instructors and training centres will be held on 24th September in Tyne & Wear in the north of the UK and on 3rd December in Oxfordshire in the south.

Details at www.ipaf.org/events