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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](http://www.ipaf.org) for full listing



Spanset's new training structure

# Spanset unveils new training centre

Spanset, the safety harness and equipment producer, unveiled its new UK training centre in July. The new purpose-built facilities, located at the company's Cheshire headquarters, are part of an expansion of its training division. The investment of £150,000 includes state of the art outdoor structures designed to enable realistic training in height, safety and rescue techniques.

The company claims that the new layout is one of the most extensive and versatile of its kind in the UK. It incorporates facilities for specialist training in load lifting and restraint, vehicle restraint and material handling training, together with lecture rooms and refreshment facilities.

## Developer unlikely to face charges

A Bolton-based developer is unlikely to face any legal proceedings following the death of surveyor David Humphries, 64, who fell through a hole in the floor at Trinity Church in Bolton while carrying out a survey in May.

The Health and Safety Executive conducted an investigation at the disused church owned by Bolton-based developers G and J Seddon. It said that a file had been passed to the coroner and no further action was expected against the firm, but that it would not be closing the case until the outcome of an inquest.

"On the basis of current evidence, there is nothing to suggest that we

would begin any legal proceedings in the light of Mr Humphries' death," a spokesman said. Keith Waddington, commercial director of Seddons, said: "We have worked closely with the HSE throughout their investigation into this incident. The group has an excellent safety track record and we have reviewed certain procedures in the light of comments made by the HSE."

## T5 makes it 2 million

The 7,500-strong workforce on the new £4.2 billion Heathrow Terminal 5 scheme has clocked up two million man-hours without a reportable accident. The construction project, which has placed a great deal of emphasis on the use of safe powered access and training, has hit the million man hours target on six separate occasions. Since construction began in summer 2002 around 40 million man hours have been spent building the terminal.

C&a

training

# Absence of training caused deaths

An inquest jury has delivered verdicts of accidental death for two men who fell to their deaths after a crane operator loosened the tower section bolts on a 30 metre tower crane. Stephen Boatman, 45, from Reading, and Gary Miles, 37, from Crowthorne, near Bracknell, died after the crane, that had been used at the Highdown School, Durrington, collapsed on February, 11, 2005. Both men died instantly from head and chest injuries.

The jury heard that David Smith, 55, of Weybridge, loosened 16 of the heavy duty bolts that held the cranes tower together. Smith was left dangling halfway up the tower, unconscious but recovered in hospital.

The court was told that neither Smith, Boatman nor Miles possessed any formal qualifications for dismantling tower cranes and 'that no formal training programme existed'. Smith, an experienced crane operator,

described how he had climbed the crane loosening bolts on the day of the accident, in preparation for it to be dismantled the following day.

The court was told that such loosening was 'routine procedure' but that a certain degree of 'torque' was to be left to ensure the safety of the structure. Experts stated that the bolts were not tight enough to maintain the turning moment of the crane, causing it to topple over.

All three men worked for rental company W D Bennett's Plant & Services, based in Gloucestershire, which supplied the two cranes and was responsible for dismantling them.



The tower crane collapse killed two

## Ainscough trains 10,000

Ainscough Training Services Ltd trained its 10,000th candidate in July. In the five years since the business was demerged from Ainscough Crane Hire, it has provided over 12,500 course places to 10,000 candidates from more than 1,400 employers.

The 10,000th person trained was corporal Kieran Taylor, currently a plant fitter with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. He chose Ainscough to undertake his resettlement training as he prepares to re-enter civilian life later this year. The programme consisted of a two week long CPCS mobile crane and slinger/signaller course, with further two weeks work placement at the Ainscough Crane Hire depot in Standish.

## Has he been trained?

Spotted in a Northampton village, in August, how is this for safe access? It doesn't look like this painter has attended any safe access courses or heard from the HSE



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