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APF Show

review 43

A round-up of the UK's premier forestry, woodland, arboricultural, tree and timber exhibition.

Platformers' Days review 47 Platformers' Days returned to Hohenroda,

Germany for the first time since 2012 with

more visitors and equipment than ever before.



Safety Equipment 50

In this month's feature on safety equipment we take a look at IPAF's accident reporting data and the products and guidance available to help prevent such incidents.

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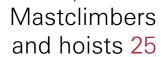
Potain Topless, Crane company faces corporate manslaughter charges. Tat Hong may float China crane business, Kulawik leaves Palfinger, Manitou launches largest telehandler, Big Effer for Collett, IPAF half year accident report, JCB unveils new



Xtreme uprates big telehandler.

Heavy lift 17 This month we profile Collett

a leading heavy transport company currently investing heavily in new equipment, and take a look at some recent heavy lift projects from various parts of the world.



Over the past four years Apollo Cradles has expanded its mastclimber fleet from zero to 200 units. Mark Darwin talks to managing director Kevan Herbert and operations director Darren

> Brady about the company. We also take a look at some interesting projects involving mastclimbers and hoists.

Managing ground conditions 35

This is the 10th year that Cranes & Access has highlighted the importance of paying attention to the proper set up of outriggers with mats, spreader plates and other forms of ground protection. We review the latest effort to improve

> the knowledge in this area the newly published Ground **Conditions Good Practice**



The next issue of Cranes & Access, scheduled for mid-November we will have features on Loader cranes, Lift planning and Diesel boom lifts. If you have any contributions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact our editorial team.

Guide.

"To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment".

Ralph Waldo Emerson





On the cover:

a large Liebherr crawler crane.

Mastclimbers and hoists



35 Managing ground conditions



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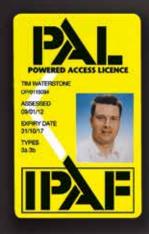
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Grounds for concern?

We have several features this month concerning accidents relating to ground conditions. The first looks at the causes of fatalities in the powered access market focussing on IPAF's growing accident database. Sadly there have been 106 reported deaths since it began at the start of 2012. What is not surprising

comment

is that overturning tops the list claiming 31 fatalities with almost 70 percent of them in booms either self-propelled or vehicle mounted.

A good number of these incidents occurred as a result of poor ground conditions and the failure to appreciate the pressure that equipment can exert on the ground, particularly when an extended platform is slewed over one wheel or outrigger. It should also be noted that overturns kill almost twice as many as entrapments (16 fatalities) only one of which was in the UK - yet so far overturns has failed to generate the same level of action among UK contractors.

This is also the 10th year that Cranes & Access has featured/highlighted the importance of using outrigger mats and other forms of ground protection to reduce the likelihood of equipment sinking or overturning, especially when working on soft ground or over hidden voids and on other challenging ground conditions. We have also regularly reported on such incidents online - some say over reported, dubbing the website Vertikill.net - which has helped raise the profile of the problem to a much wider audience. We don't apologise for banging on about this, as taking even the most basic steps to spread loads could slash crane and platform accidents overnight. The same could be said about wearing harnesses which again we have highlighted through accident reports, even before the introduction of campaigns such as 'Clunk Click'.

In recent years various groups and associations have issued guidance on ground conditions, in an effort to reduce the number of incidents. IPAF's 'Spread the load!' campaign is one, while the latest - entitled 'Ground Conditions Good Practice Guide' developed by the UK Strategic Forum for Construction - is due to be published later this month. This 'good practice guide' is a hefty 73 pages - but don't worry there is a four page potted version - and aimed at main contractors and clients, many of which are still unaware that ground conditions are ultimately their responsibility.

Changing the way people do things is a long, hard process - but the effort is worthwhile if it ultimately helps ensure more people return home to their loved ones from work each evening. The more people are aware of good practice and are prepared to speak up, the better all of our lives will be as fewer companies and families face the misery, trauma, expense and uncertainty that workplace accidents/incidents bring.

Mark Darwin

Comment and feedback is most welcome via post, email, fax or phone stating if we may publish them or not: editor@vertikal.net

