Are your staff properly trained? Don't risk it call a certified local company today



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.

\$130,000 fine for telehandler fatality

New Zealand concrete company, Busck Prestressed Concrete, has been fined \$70,000 plus costs of \$60,000, following a fatal incident involving a telehandler and an untrained operator.

Anthony Wells was working in the yard of the company's factory in Christchurch in February, 2013, during the early hours of the morning, when he was hit by a telehandler and pronounced dead at the scene. Not only was the operator a trainee with no formal qualifications, but an inspection of the telehandler revealed that its headlights, front indicators, brake lights, front hazard lights and horn were not working. Its right wing mirror was also missing. Despite this, the operator had failed to turn the field lights on, which meant the only light coming from the vehicle

was the flashing beacon on the roof. In addition, four of the five lights in the yard were broken, with the remaining one facing towards the building rather than the yard.

Keith Stewart, WorkSafe New Zealand's chief investigator, said: "The catalogue of safety issues identified with the telehandler is completely unacceptable. The driver should also have been given proper training and supervision. Sadly, given the state of the telehandler and the poor lighting in the factory yard, Mr Wells' death was a tragedy waiting to happen."

Scaffold company owner jailed

Mark Hayes, owner of Eltham-based WSS Scaffolding, has been jailed for 15 months after an employee fell 14 metres to his death.

Grant Dunmall, 25, was working from a tower scaffold outside a house in Notting Hill, London, when he fell, sustaining fatal injuries. Hayes was responsible for the tower and an investigation found that he had failed to properly plan, supervise or carry out the work in a safe manner. Edge protection was also missing, and Dunmall was not provided with any other means such as a fall arrest harness, to prevent or mitigate a fall. Hayes was previously fined £12,000 plus costs of £5,601 for twice failing to provide legally-required documents relating to the investigation.

HSE inspector Jack Wilby, said: "Our investigation into this tragic death was delayed for several months because of Mark Hayes' total lack of co-operation in supporting our work. His wilful obstruction only served to accentuate the fact that his systems and procedures for safely managing work at height were sorely lacking, and fell short of the standards expected from a competent scaffolder. The bottom line here is that Mr Dunmall was killed in a fall that could have been avoided."





Girl power reigns at JCB

A record number of nine young women have started apprenticeships at JCB, doubling last year's intake.

They have been recruited as part of the company's Young Talent initiative which attracted more than 1,000 applications. Since its introduction three years ago the programme has seen almost 350 young people join the business. This year also marks the 50th anniversary of the launch of JCB's first apprenticeship programme - in which every recruit was male.

Owner faces prison and \$1 million fine

David Wolfe, owner of property developer Three Frogs, could face up to six years in prison and fines of over a \$1 million after an employee died when he fell from a boom lift last November. The company has already been fined \$92,000.

Joshua Pudsey, 42, was trimming tree limbs from an 80ft articulated boom lift in La Mesa, California, when a tree limb struck it, throwing him to the ground. Neither Pudsey nor the other Three Frogs employees had experience or training to cut down large trees - a legal requirement for all trees exceeding five metres. Neither had the employees been trained to operate the boom lift and no harnesses/



lanyards had been provided.

Cal/OSHA chief, Juliann Sum, said: "When safety takes a backseat to the bottom line, tragedies such as this will result. Companies that cut corners by not abiding by workplace safety regulations put their employees at risk."

Who trained him then?

Spotted on a busy street in Kiev, Ukraine, a man standing on the rails of a dilapidated truck mounted lift painting the underside of a bridge with no harness or lanyard. Very little effort had been made for traffic management and no outrigger mats had been used.

