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Half-year accident data released

There were 23 fatalities worldwide involving aerial work platforms in the first half of 2014, according to IPAF's accident database.

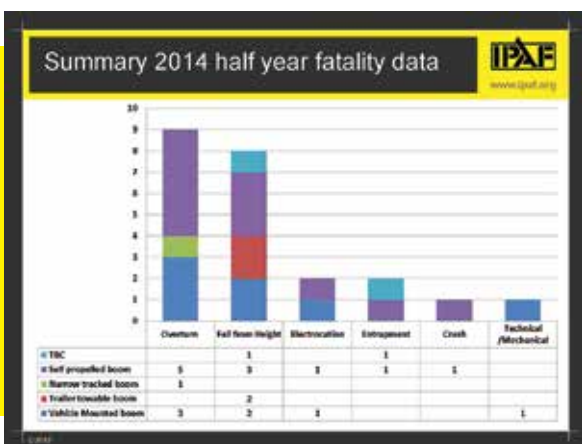
The cause of these fatalities included nine overturning incidents, eight falls from height, three entrapment (one of which involved a person on the ground being crushed between the base of a lift and another structure), two electrocutions, and one listed as technical/mechanical.

11 of the fatalities involved self-propelled boom lifts (3b), 10 involved scissor lifts (1b) and in two cases the machine type has yet to be confirmed. Of these fatalities, 13 occurred in the USA, with two in Germany, and one each in Australia, Austria, Colombia, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain and the UK.

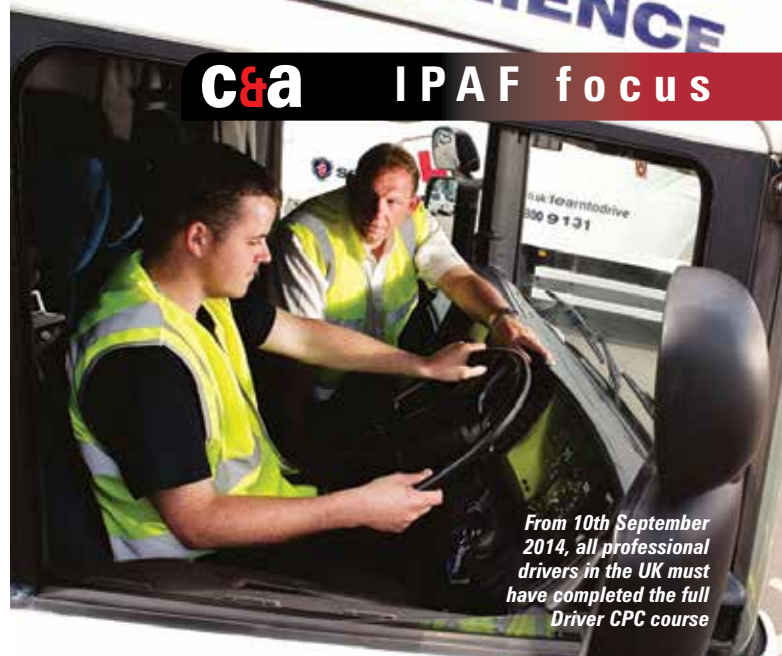
IPAF technical and safety executive Chris Wraith, said: "More companies are participating in the accident reporting project, which is generating more data in its third year, but it is still too early to draw comparisons. This is a groundbreaking research programme by the powered access industry designed to improve safety worldwide. Preliminary findings from the accident reporting project have provided a rich source for improving IPAF's training programmes and safety initiatives, for example, with regards to the safe loading and unloading of machines, and managing electrocution risks when working near power lines."

IPAF chief executive Tim Whiteman, added: "Accidents do occur, but we should keep in perspective that with over one million rental units worldwide, aerial work platforms are one of the safest ways to do temporary work at height and IPAF's accident reporting project is designed to make a safe industry even safer."

All manufacturers, rental companies, contractors and users are encouraged to report any known fatal and serious accidents involving aerial work platforms and mast climbers on the IPAF accident database. The project is open to IPAF members and non-members, and includes an option for anonymous reporting. To register and to report an accident, go to: www.ipaf.org/accident.



The main causes of fatalities in the first half of 2014.



From 10th September 2014, all professional drivers in the UK must have completed the full Driver CPC course

Driver CPC requirements in force

IPAF member companies should be aware that from 10th September 2014, all professional drivers in the UK must have completed the full 35-hour Driver CPC course in order to be legally qualified to carry out any driving duties. The European Union directive has set a 2016 deadline for full compliance, however different EU countries may set different national deadlines.

The Drivers' Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) implements the European Directive 2003/59/EC, which is designed to improve the knowledge and skills of professional large goods vehicle and bus/coach drivers.

There are two parts to the certification:

- New drivers must achieve the initial qualification along with their driving licence in order to operate professionally.
- All professional drivers must undertake periodic training of 35 hours every five years.

The Driver CPC applies to all professional drivers of trucks over 3.5 tonnes, buses, coaches and minibuses, and this includes users

of truck and van-mounted platforms over 3.5 tonnes.

IPAF members are advised to ensure that their drivers have adequate training and that they renew their Driver CPC qualification every five years. Several IPAF-approved training centres have registered some of the IPAF courses, such as the loading/unloading course, the operator course and the demonstrator course, as part of the accredited training which can count towards the CPC requirements.

IPAF members wishing to have more information should contact the IPAF training operations coordinator: susan.foster@ipaf.org, or the IPAF technical & safety executive: chris.wraith@ipaf.org.

TÜV confirms IPAF compliance

Audits performed by TÜV have confirmed that IPAF continues to comply with ISO 18878 mobile elevating work platforms – operator (driver) training and ISO 9001 quality management systems.

IPAF fulfilled all requirements of the ISO 18878 training standard with no non-conformities were found. The audits were performed in early September at the IPAF head office in the UK. TÜV also confirmed that IPAF continues to comply with the ISO 9001 quality

management standard with no non-conformities found.

The report said: "The organisation maintains documented and effective procedures governing the handling of information, data analyses, improvement actions and responses to customer feedback.

The company receives very low levels of complaints... Management reviews the quality management system at regular intervals and in line with the requirements to ensure its continuous suitability, adequacy and effectiveness."

