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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.



# £62,500 for poor planning

UK-based MMD Mining Machinery Developments and general contractor Instant Installations have been fined £26,666 and 20,000 respectively plus costs of £16,026, after a man was injured whilst dismantling steelwork in 2011.

The man, 47, an Instant Installations employee, was working from a scissor lift with another employee, removing steel beams at a MMD facility in Somercotes. The two men were placing the beams, weighing up to 430kg, on the guard rails before lowering them to the ground. They then tried to remove a compound overhead crane beam, weighing over a tonne. Repeated attempts to lift the beam with the scissor lift caused it to fall, striking the man who sustained serious crushing injuries to his head and chest.



The two men were removing and lowering steel beams using a scissor lift

An investigation found that both companies failed to plan the dismantling work and to record the arrangements for it to be carried out. HSE inspector Grayam Barnes, said: "This incident, which saw completely inadequate equipment being used to remove heavy steel beams at height, could easily have resulted in a fatality. It is the duty of employers to ensure that the correct work equipment is provided to carry out the work. This work was not properly planned by either company leading to a worker suffering very serious injuries which he is still recovering from more than three years later."

# Company fined for man basket fall

US engineering contractor Disney Construction of Burlingame has been fined \$106,110 after the deaths of two employees who were working from a man-basket on the site of a new bridge over Putah Creek, near Sacramento, California. Marcus Powell, 26, and Gleen Hodgson, 49, had been lifted by a crawler crane to a height of 25 metres to inspect a broken cable on a drilling rig when the man-basket broke free.

An investigation found that the rigging for the basket did not fit into the throat of the hook and that the safety latch was missing a locking mechanism. The company was cited for nine serious and one minor violations, which included using a man-basket when more conventional methods of access should have been used and failing to have a competent person inspect the site, equipment and rigging - including whether the hook safety latch closed, latched and locked.



Two workers died on a site near Sacramento, when a man-basket broke free from a crane

# US veterans programme

Skyjack has joined United Rentals' 'Service to Employment' programme which helps US military veterans train to become service engineers. Skyjack will provide specific product training for the programme, which provides potential technicians a month long training course, on-the-job training and eventual job placement at a United Rentals location. Since 2013 the company has employed 86 veterans.



Military veterans receiving hands-on training as part of United Rental's Service to Employment programme

C&A

training



The trainee steel erector was using a boom lift to lift and fix cladding rails measuring 5.9 metre long and weighing 31kg

# Company ceases activities after incident

UK crane and steel erection company Crossgill Construction has stopped its steelwork activities after an employee sustained a serious head injury. The company was fined £6,000 plus costs of £865 after a trainee steel erector, who was lifting and installing cladding rails from an aerial work platform, became trapped between the basket and a cladding rail. The man broke his jaw in three places, suffered a severe cut all the way through the right side of his cheek and a bruised shoulder.

A HSE investigation found that Crossgill Construction had failed to plan and manage the risks from erecting the cladding rails, which included the possibility of crush injuries, that the steel rails could be dropped from height while they were being bolted into place, and that the aerial work platform was not the most appropriate machine to lift the rails into position.

Crossgill's lawyer said: "Crossgill took immediate remedial action and co-operated fully with the HSE. Since this occurred the company no longer does steel erection, just crane hire - something which in 2014 means the company is running at a loss. The company has a long standing commitment to health and safety, and had no previous convictions, prosecutions or orders against it in 10 years of trading."

# Who trained him then?

Spotted by a reader in the Netherlands, a man working on a warehouse roof from a scissor lift which has been boosted three metres by a forklift. The operator clearly got carried away and went too high, bending the deck extension.

