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All training centres above offer **IPAF/PASMA/CPCS** or other approved and audited training courses. European directives and most national regulations require that staff are properly trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate. If you wish to become a sponsor of the Training & Safety page opposite by advertising, contact us on info@vertikal.net

Bakery fined £2m for fall

UK bread maker Warburtons has been fined £2 million plus costs of £20,000 after employee Andrew Sears fell around two metres after losing his footing while cleaning a mixing machine at the company's bakery in Wednesbury, Wolverhampton in November 2013. Sears spent an extended period in hospital with a compression fracture to his spine, and was unable to return to work for over 12 months. Having struggled to adapt he was dismissed in December 2015.

An investigation found that employees at the plant were expected to clean the mixers at least every two weeks, and were often unbalanced and would brace themselves to avoid falling. They received no training on how to work at height for what was a routine job and were not adequately supervised.

HSE inspector Mahesh Mahey said: "This case highlights how important it is for companies to fully assess the risks when working at height and take appropriate action to prevent injury in the workplace. Mr Sears' life has been changed forever but his injuries could have been more severe."



Wind training for ALE

ALE's wind turbine electromechanical installation technicians have been trained to the Global Wind Organisation (GWO) standards. ALE's Carlos Moreno said: "The wind energy sector is a major industry for ALE and our priority is to ensure our technicians are always developing and regularly trained to best serve our clients. We wanted them to be fully trained and certified to the GWO standards so that clients have the assurance that the same standards will be applied globally."

Top award for JCB engineer

JCB design engineer Holly Broadhurst has been named as the Higher and Degree Apprentice of the Year at the National Apprenticeships Awards.

Broadhurst joined JCB at 16 after studying at the JCB Academy and graduated last year with a degree in mechanical engineering. She now designs JCB's mini excavators. Speaking of the award she said: "I have learnt and gained so much through my apprenticeship. I look at my friends who went to university and they are only just getting the workplace experience now. I would advise anyone considering an apprenticeship to go for it."



Holly Broadhurst

Unsafe ladder costs £8,500

UK-based roofing contractor MW Roofing (NW) has been fined £6,000 plus costs of £2,440.60 after putting the lives of two employees at risk whilst working at height without protection against falls.

The two men were removing a chimney on a house when they were spotted accessing the roof via a cat ladder, whilst waste material was being removed by buckets carried down the ladder. There were no safety measures in place to prevent them from falling. They were caught on camera and reported. The company had ignored previous warnings from the HSE about its unsafe work at height practices.

HSE inspector David Argument said: "You cannot ignore the dangers of working at height, it remains the main cause of death and serious injury in the workplace, particularly in the construction industry. Simple measures, such as providing guard rails can prevent this."

Unsafe working on camera



Fatal telehandler fall costs £168k

Two companies have been fined after two men were catapulted out of a platform on a telehandler, resulting in the death of Stephen John Greenaway, 50, who was working for Advance Door Engineering which had been contracted by Shufflebottom Ltd to fabricate and install roller shutter doors on a slipway building at Mustang Marine in Pembroke Dock, Wales.

The two men were working from the telehandler platform at a height of around 10 metres, when the operator reversed the machine in order to relocate it. The basket caught on fencing causing a strong reaction when it broke free, catapulting the two out of the platform to the ground. Greenaway was reported to have been wearing a harness but had not attached the lanyard to anything. The HSE found that the companies had not properly thought through the risks associated with the job. Shufflebottom was fined £125,000 plus costs of £43,000, whilst Advance - now in liquidation - was fined £1.

Who trained them then?



Spotted by a reader on a site in Mid December two men in a rustic looking telehandler platform, with no harnesses or lanyards - you only need read Fatal telehandler fall - above to know how dangerous this can be.