

# Are your staff **properly trained**?

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All training centres above offer IPAF approved and audited courses for Operators of Mobile aerial work platforms, European directives require that all staff are fully and adequately trained in the safe use of the equipment they operate.

See [www.ipaf.org](http://www.ipaf.org) for full listing

# Was this man trained?



This is a very unusual incident, on the one hand one of the worst pieces of machine abuse is taking place, the operator is using the platform to lift a suspended load. As if that is not bad enough, it is a load of an unknown weight and is attached to the worst possible point, the thin finger guard rail which is not only the furthest distance from the centre of rotation, but also as it is attached to a plastic bucket, hardly likely to be strong enough!

The immediate reaction is that such an operator cannot possibly have been trained?

Yet one thing he is doing absolutely correctly is that he is wearing a full body harness with a short lanyard! The wearing of which probably saved his life.

Otherwise it is quite possible that he would have been ejected from the platform and could easily have crashed into the castle walls.



So surely he must have been trained?

Sadly, it is likely that his company Amey, kindly donated the use of the machine to help erect the Christmas tree at Carlisle Castle, which was funded by donations.

The episode is though a good example of what to do and what not to do.

The full sequence of photographs can be seen on [www.vertikal.net](http://www.vertikal.net)

*Note: The employer and owner of the lift, Amey, provided us with the following statement: "This incident happened whilst attempting to install a christmas tree at Carlisle Castle for English Heritage. The incident did not result in any injury to our employee due to the fact he was following the correct procedure and wearing a safety harness. Amey duly informed the HSE and an investigation is ongoing to determine the cause of the incident"*

Exit to safety thanks to a harness

c&a

training

## Safety and Health awareness day

Active Rentals, The Hamilton based telehandler and Access Specialist, has assisted the Health & Safety Executive with a construction Safety and Health Awareness Day (SHAD). The SHAD was attended by representatives of small to medium sizes companies, covering all areas of the construction industry.



Jeanette Reuben, Chairperson of the Site Safety Scotland Committee said "Feedback from attendees has been extremely positive. An aim of the event is to make the scenarios as practical as possible. Active Rentals supplied various machines and contributed greatly to the working at height and mechanical handling demonstrations." she continued "The reaction to the equipment from delegates showed that they had absorbed the information, and many of them stated that the use of equipment demonstrated and the benefits of its use would be the first thing they would review and update upon returning to their business".



SHAD's are a key element in the HSE's armoury for promoting awareness of health and safety issues and are usually combined with initiatives such as the "Working Well Together Campaigns".

Attendance at SHAD's within the construction

industry has been high, something the HSE hopes to maintain through 2006. Supporting the HSE with such events can be very productive for access and lifting hirers. Andrew McCusker managing director of Active Rentals said "This is just another characteristic of our company's full and steadfast commitment to a safer work environment".

## Fabricator hit for £20,000

Thomas Deighton, trading as ATD Fabrications, of Monk Bretton, Barnsley was fined £14,000 plus costs of £6,000 at Sheffield Crown Court for failing to provide a safe system of work for an employee after an incident on 18 May 2004.

The construction worker sustained broken bones and serious facial injuries after falling around five metres, through a mezzanine floor he was helping to build.

David Redman, Construction Principal Inspector with the HSE said:

"The injuries sustained in this particular incident were severe and indeed could have been fatal. Falls from height continue to be the greatest cause of fatal and serious injuries within the workplace and it is a particular problem for a construction industry in which the accident toll is already too high." He went on to give some general advice about working at height: "Don't start the work until you have properly planned how you are going to do it, and you have fully considered, assessed and controlled the risks involved. Don't underestimate these, simply 'taking care' is not enough and proper precautions must be in place.

"Choose the right work equipment and give serious thought as to whether it will serve to actually prevent a fall, like a guardrail or a working platform, rather than simply lessen its consequences, like a net or an airbag". "Making do without the right equipment can lead to injury or death, as well as prosecution."

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